THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 14 ◆ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ◆ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ◆ thursday, 23 october, 2003

SHAWN BENBOW

DO BUSES GO BACK IN TIME AT NIGHT? Nope! For more on what happens on campus at night, turn to page14.

Learning minister's degree-granting statement 'shocking'

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

Recently, Alberta Learning Minister Lyle Oberg stated that Medicine Hat College will graduate to degree-granting status in less than a month. However, Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act (better known as Bill 43), which will outline the process colleges have to go through to gain this status, won't even have reached its final reading by that point.

Medicine Hat College currently offers applied degrees, as well as a partnership with the University of Calgary through which students can get nursing degrees without leaving home. While the college does hope to become a degree-granting institution eventually, they were surprised by Oberg's statement.

"As I understand things, what *is* going to happen within the month is Bill 43 will be going to a higher level of approval," said Mark Keller, Medicine Hat coordinator of college advancement.

"It's expected that within Bill 43, the possibility for colleges to grant degrees will open up. However, I don't think there is something specific that will give us degree-granting status at that time."

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Vice-Chair and U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel says he was "shocked" when he heard Oberg's statement.

"I was really surprised the minister would have the gall and the audacity to say something so sweeping and to make a statement that was so definitive without going through the channels he was supposed to go through and the democratic process of passing legislation," he said.

"The indication he gave was that there's no chance of this bill being changed, which is completely contradictory to the whole spirit of a deliberative body."

According to Katrina Bluetchen, public relations officer for Alberta Learning, the minister's statement was "a little unrealistic."

> **"It's expected that within Bill 43, the possibility for colleges to grant degrees will open up. However, I don't think there is something specific that will give us degree-granting status at that time."**
>
> **MARK KELLER, MEDICINE HAT COORDINATOR OF COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT**

"I think [Oberg] was just looking forward to the Post-Secondary Learning Act being passed and colleges being able to apply for degree programs," she explained.

Once Bill 43 goes through the legislative process, colleges will likely be able to apply for degree-granting status through the Alberta Board of Accreditation, which will review their proposals on a case-by-case basis and then decide whether they have the resources to offer their students degrees. So far, Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, Mount Royal College in Calgary, and Medicine Hat College are the most likely candidates.

PLEASE SEE **DEGREES** • PAGE 2

Pilot project aims to draw students from abroad

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

A new pilot project by the federal government and the province of Alberta aims to speed up the process by which international students make their way to postsecondary institutions in Alberta.

The two-year pilot project will begin on 1 April, 2004, and will shorten the processing time of visa applications to as little as 28 days, down from three months.

"This is a pilot project to increase the efficiency and processing of students coming here. And it is something that is a benefit to all postsecondary institutions here," explained U of A Associate Vice-President (International) Dr Brian Stevenson.

At this point in time, the University of Alberta is in discussions with the provincial government about the project. Stevenson explained that the project is part of a larger trend towards internationalizing campuses across Canada.

"The provincial and federal governments have been encouraging postsecondary institutions in Canada for the past few years to bring in international students. It's not a phenomenon that we only have in Canada, it's a global phenomenon; the internationalization of education all around the world," said Stevenson.

Similarly enthusiastic about the project was Alberta Minister of Learning Dr Lyle Oberg, who stressed that it will appeal to Alberta's economic interests.

"Foreign students do bring money into Alberta," he remarked.

PLEASE SEE **INTERNATIONAL** • PAGE 4

Recent graduate donates over $1 million to U of A

REBECCA BLASCO
News Writer

In an effort to enhance telecommunications research at the U of A, an engineering graduate has established a $1.075 million grant in the department of computer and electrical engineering.

Dr Rohit Sharma, who completed his PhD at the University of Alberta in 1996, has created the endowment in order to help professors and graduate students conduct research into improving signal processing for wireless communications.

"I think any support that folks like me can provide should help students in the department," said Sharma.

Originally from India, Sharma came to the U of A in 1989 for his MSc and returned in 1993 to do his PhD because, as he explained, "the U of A had in those days, and still has, one of the strongest telecommunication programs in all of North America."

> **"I think any support that folks like me can provide should help students in the department."**
>
> **DR ROHIT SHARMA, U OF A ENGINEERING ALUMNUS**

Sharma moved to Silicon Valley in California in 1996, where he helped found Optical Network Incorporated (ONI) Systems. He and his company designed high-speed wireless broadband switches that allowed users within cities to send and receive large amounts of information with effectively no delay. Last year, his company was bought out in a $900 million share exchange transaction.

According to Sharma's predictions, in the future, wireless communications, or access to the internet through wireless cellular or computer systems, "will be everywhere, at home and at work."

PLEASE SEE **DONATION** • PAGE 5

LEANNE BROWN

QUESTIONING THE GOVERNMENT CAUS Vice-Chair Chris Samuel.

7 Despite the fact that mid-terms are sneaking up on everyone, you crazy readers still finding the time to write letters. Approximately 3700 words worth. Find out what the buzz is all about.

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Outside

Thursday Showers, Rick begets Bradford; High 12, Low 7
Friday Sun and cloud, Bradford begets Aaron; High 9, Low 0
Saturday Sunny, what the hell happened to that Aaron kid? High 12, Low -3
Sunday Cloudy, seriously, the VJ search party should go looking for him; High 13, Low 1
Source: Environment Canada

From the archives

The Central Academic Building (CAB) had a bomb scare on 21 October, 1980, that brought Campus Security, five city police officers, and the city police bomb squad truck. The object of attention was a carton of cigars. A professor, who refused to be identified, received the parcel in the mail from Montréal but no name was stated in the return address. Campus Security was called and soon after the police arrived. Campus Security's Ralph Oliver denied knowledge of the incident, saying he had received no report of it. However, after his memory was jarred, he remembered enough to state it was a false alarm. "The bomb turned out to be ordinary cigars," he said.

1980

16 Thinking about going to see a movie this weekend? Check out today's A&E section. We reviewed five movies today. None of them were any good at all. Seriously.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 23 october, 2003
volume XCIII number 14

Published since 21 November, 1910
Circulation 10 000
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
E-mail gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

ERIC-IN-CHIEF Chris Boutet
eric@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168

MANAGING EDITOR Adam Rozenhart
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663

NEWS EDITOR Kristine Owram
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS
Cosanna Preston
cosanna@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664
Caitlin Crawshaw
caitlin@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Heather Adler
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052

SPORTS EDITOR Joel Chury
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652

FEATURES EDITOR Leah Collins
features@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654

PHOTO EDITOR Shawn Benbow
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648

PRODUCTION EDITOR Daniel Kaszor
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661

businessstaff

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Patrick Czicolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700

AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Dave Leriger
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647

BUSINESS MANAGER
Don Iveson
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Steve Lillebuen
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168

THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

The *Gateway* is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and Umax Astra 600s flatbed scanners, and a Canon Canoscan FS4000US optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Fence, Kepler, Joanna, and Aroma. The GATEWAY's games of choice are *EVO*, and *The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past*.

contributors

David "Sexy" Berry, Sarah Hanasyk, Chris André, Trevor Panas, Emily Smit, Melvin Backstrom, Dave Alexander, Patrick Sunderland, Mike Hudema, Fish Griwkowsky, Mike Winters, Chris Krause, Jen Koskela, Philip Head, Connie Head, Eric Uhlich, Megan Simko, Rick Hunter, Erika Thorkelson, Jake Troughton, Bryan Lee, Geoff Woade, Katie Kovacs, Leanne Brown, Ashley Jensen, Lisa Butler, James Johnson, Wilt Chen, Matt Frehner, Dave Morgan, Nick Wiebe, Lauren Jennings, Jozel Campbell-Lemire, Ariel Brunn, Rebecca Blasco, Barrie Tanner, Heather Fenton, Robin Callum, Jennifer Rolls, and O59, for forcefully giving our computers AIDS. Oh, and new sunglae-flavoured Smarties for being really fucking disgusting.

No mention of funding made by minister

DEGREES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Samuel, giving colleges degree-granting status is not a bad idea in and of itself, but without the promise of additional funding from the government, it could harm students more than it will help them.

"The research we've done on the institutional program costs of a college that's going to move from offering first- and second-year programs to third- and fourth-year programs, where classes are smaller, you need more qualified professors, and more resources for your students shows that the costs are exponential," he said.

"So when [Oberg] says things like 'Medicine Hat will unequivocally grant degrees,' to us it points to the government looking to get funds from students rather than getting the funds from where they should be."

One of the more controversial issues surrounding Bill 43 is the possibility that the current cap stating tuition cannot be raised higher than 30 per cent of an institution's operating costs may be removed.

"You need to make sure college students are getting the same quality of education they would get at the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary," said Samuel. "Ultimately, you're going to need to make sure the government is putting their money where their mouth is and students aren't going to have to pay for this."

Keller agreed that additional funding will be necessary if Medicine Hat College is given degree-granting status. "For any institution to put on a new program, there's requirements for additional funding. So we are hopeful that any approved degree would come with approved funding as well."

According to Samuel, this issue ultimately boils down to the government's view of the consultation process. "It's pretty typical of this government to make unilateral decisions without going through the proper democratic process, and I think that's a big disappointment to the students of Alberta."

U of A's new interactive Pig Science Centre teaches urban kids about rural life

HEATHER FENTON
News Writer

"Can we touch the pigs?" appears to be the most common question at the U of A farm's new $300 000 Pig Science Centre, an interactive facility aimed at exposing city kids to life on a pig farm.

The centre's displays are geared towards children in grades four to six, where agriculture is part of the province's curriculum. However, the displays are designed to appeal to all age groups.

For example, a peek at the "poop cycle" wall allows one to calculate that 340 000 litres of pig manure can be used to fertilize enough fields to produce barley for 39 960 bottles of beer.

Due to strict biosecurity considerations, the kids are not able to touch the pigs, but can feast their hands, eyes, ears, and noses on the interactive displays the facility has to offer, ranging from feeling different components of pig feed to listening to hungry piglets drink from their mother. It also literally provides a window into swine life as well as ongoing research at the University of Alberta.

The idea for the centre was conceived a year ago by Alberta Pork, a representative organization of over 1800 pork producers in the province. The interpretative facility is an addition to the $5.4 million revamped Swine Research and Technology Centre located on the U of A's experimental farm.

Since its opening on 30 September, the centre has received much positive feedback.

"We have received positive reviews from teachers so far. There is a possibility that the poultry, dairy and even possibly beef units will be doing this kind of thing [in the future]. They are very excited about what has been going on so far," said Dr Ron Ball, a professor in the faculty of agriculture, forestry and home economics and one of five members on the committee that oversaw the birth of the centre.

Ball sees this interpretive centre as a means of showcasing the pork industry's commitment to environmental, nutritional, food safety and animal welfare issues.

"It is really important to have a facility like this in the middle of the city to provide access to information that people may not otherwise get coming from an urban background," said Ball.

> **"Young people will be voters in the future and if they remember their trip to the U of A farm and how important agriculture is, they may vote in favour of agriculture later on."**
>
> **BILL MULLEN, ALBERTA PORK FIELD SERVICES SPECIALIST**

The importance of swine and agricultural production to Alberta's economy and the community in general is often overlooked by the urban population, which Ball thinks is due primarily to a loss of direct connections with farm life.

"There are so few people directly involved in agricultural production; it takes such a small number of people to feed the other 97 per cent [of the population]. That 97 per cent doesn't have enough contact to realize how technologically advanced agriculture is today and how important it is in our daily lives and how integrated it is in the community," said Ball.

He hopes that the Pig Science Centre and facilities like it will help to educate the public in important agricultural issues, especially when such issues are becoming more common in the media. One need not look very far to realize how media coverage of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has impacted many aspects of animal agriculture in Alberta.

Bill Mullen, field services specialist for Alberta Pork, emphasized the importance of having an educational facility of this kind. It removes misconceptions that the consumer-driven swine industry is not progressive and open to change, he said.

Mullen is very excited about the new centre because of its importance in exposing children to agriculture. "Young people will be voters in the future and if they remember their trip to the U of A farm and how important agriculture is, they may vote in favour of agriculture later on," said Mullen.

ARIEL BRUNN

SMELLY! Pigs under the watchful eye of children at the Pig Science Centre.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Barrie Tanner (btanner@ualberta.ca)

RACIALLY-MOTIVATED STRUGGLE NEAR HUB

At about 1am on 18 October, a fight was reported in front of the LRT terminal on the south end of HUB mall. The fighters were not affiliated with the University, and one had been dealt with before by constables and also had a criminal history for violence, break and enter, theft, and weapons. The victim was standing listening to his walkman when the other allegedly muttered some racial slurs, and the fight was on. Neither wanted to press charges, but the accused with the criminal record was issued a tag for public intoxication, and was sent on his way with his group of two children, two females and another male.

RASH OF BIKE THEFTS PLAGUE CAMPUS

Ten bikes have been reported stolen from campus during daylights hours since 15 October, and many more stolen that were not reported.

"The only way these thefts will slow down is if people get good locks and keep their eyes open," said Sgt Darcy Pennock from Community and Crime Prevention Services at 5-0. "Somebody must see something; there are too many people around for this activity to go unnoticed."

"We hate to say it, but it's getting to the point where if you can't afford to lose it, don't bring it to campus," continued Pennock. "Even the best locks can be defeated in minutes by a skilled thief."

Campus Security is asking students to pay a little more attention to what is going on around them, particularly around bike racks, and to report any suspicious activity at 492-5050.

PERVERT RESURFACES NEAR MEDICAL SCIENCES

On 17 October, a female student in John Scott Library was studying at a table when she felt something bumping herself and her chair from behind. She turned around when the bumping continued to find a man, his pants unzipped, exposing himself, bumping her with his genitals.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, 40 years or older, with salt and pepper longish hair wearing blue jeans and a plaid shirt. The complaint was made anonymously as the victim did not want to be identified. Campus 5-0 is looking for more information and would like to speak to the victim. They also advise the victim there are other services available on campus if she wishes to speak to someone else about the incident.

On 21 October, a man matching this description was seen by staff peeking into windows of the Heritage Medical Research Centre. He has an obvious paunch, with near-shoulder length salt and pepper hair and was riding an older model 10-speed bike. 5-0 is looking to talk to this man; if you spot him you can contact constables at 492-5050.

CRAWLING FROM THE ROOF

On 20 October at about 9am, a break and enter was discovered in the Fine Arts Building on the third floor. Thieves gained access via the ceiling tiles, rifled through desks and stole several textbooks. Edmonton Police forensics was called to look for possible prints.

NO MORE SWEET SOUNDS FOR STUDENT

On 19 October at almost 4am, constables were searching for a suspicious person on east campus on 110 Street and 90 Avenue when they came across a red Pontiac Sunfire with the driver's door lock punched in, the glove box open and the trunk ajar. The owner, a student, was contacted. A $3000 stereo deck and two amps valued at $2200 were stolen.

HOSPITAL THIEF BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

On 18 October at about 3am, Hospital Security called 5-0 for help in tracking down a female who had stolen four blankets and some drugs from a unit in the hospital. Constables located the suspect in minutes as she sat in a vehicle in Jubilee lot. She was escorted back to the hospital, where EPS was called and she was charged with theft.

THAT'S NOT A SEIZURE!

On 17 October at 5:30pm, LRT security requested 5-0 assistance in dealing with someone they suspected was having a seizure on the platform of University station. Constables quickly determined the man only suffered from heavy intoxication of alcohol. He was escorted out of the station and arrested for public intoxication as he became belligerent and aggressive towards officers. He was identified, he had an extensive criminal record and was housed in University cells until he was sober enough to be escorted off campus. He was not affiliated and had no fixed address.

POWERPLANT BOTTLE RUN

On 17 October at about 1am, two males followed another into the bathroom at the Powerplant, where they proceeded to hit him twice with a beer bottle while his back was turned. The suspects ran from the building. The victim was bleeding profusely from his head, and was taken to U of A Emergency. One of the males from the attacking group was identified and arrested for assault. Neither were students, the assault was part of a night-long feud, and the case is still under investigation.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Shawn Benbow and Caitlin Crawshaw

The provincial and federal governments have announced a pilot project to increase the number of international students at Alberta's postsecondary institutions.

How do you think this will affect U of A students?

Jehan Zeb
Environmental Engineering PhD

This will bring people from diverse societies, and they will be able to create links to students who are coming from different institutions. This will enhance the quality of education here, because for people from different backgrounds, you could say that the thought process is different. This will help build a cohesive society and global co-existence.

Gurpreet Singh
Agricultural Engineering Master's

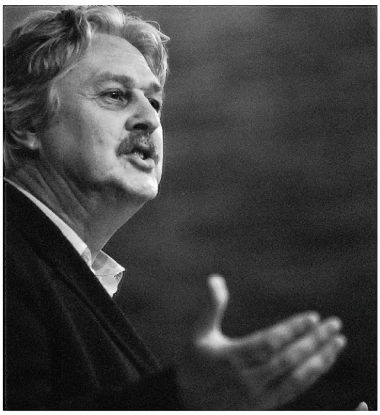
It's okay for undergraduates. They can increase the number of students. But I feel that they should concentrate more on research for graduate students. They should provide good facilities and such. Being a graduate student, I feel that there's still room for research improvements.

Sheleen Squair
Engineering I

I think there's a lot of international students here already. I think they need to concentrate on getting students from all across Canada, like from the eastern parts. It seems like everyone comes from BC and internationally.

Chelsea Thompson
Drama III

I definitely think it's a good thing. The more international exposure we can get for the university, the better. The more students that come from elsewhere experiencing what a great facility we have, the better. It's also a good thing for students who've come from different parts of Canada to meet students from other parts of the world. As long as the applications are still being given due process—I know it's a taking a shorter period of time, but if a good amount of care is being taken with the applications so that the qualified students are getting the spots, then I think it's a great thing.



MATT FREHNER
ALBERTAN ACTIVISM Speaking out at the Alberta Social Forum last weekend.

Social forum unites Alberta groups and activists

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

"Another world is possible, another Alberta is possible" was the slogan of the first Alberta Social Forum held this past weekend, which aimed to promote debate and discussion on alternatives to current government practices provincially, nationally, and internationally.

The forum, largely inspired by the World Social Forum that took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, hoped to build a network of Albertan progressive groups wanting to share ideas and experiences.

"We wanted to create a space where groups could network, learn about other groups around the province, and put on workshops that would identify issues of concern for them. We had workshops on everything from the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), to women in poverty, to situations facing the Sudanese community in Alberta," said Elizabeth Smythe, associate professor of political science at Concordia University College of Alberta and one of the key organizers of the forum.

Smythe said the conference was a huge success. She was very surprised by the attendance considering what she called an "amateur advertising attempt." Including drop-ins, attendance was estimated at about 350 people. Smythe said the organizers would have been satisfied with 150.

"We had a broad range of groups participate. They found the workshops and the experience worthwhile. They learned about what other groups are doing. They became very aware and connected with other groups. It was a big success. Groups want to do it again. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm," said Smythe.

The forum opened with a panel discussion, which provided a vague overview of what would be covered through out the weekend.

The speakers, all activists in their fields, spoke on topics ranging from immigration to environment to healthcare to education, but they all essentially had the same focus and goal: making Alberta more progressive.

"We have a government who has an ideology that says government is bad; the less government the better. Let the market do its thing," said Elisabeth Ballerman, president of the Health Science Association of Alberta.

"Our goal in the end has to be to either change or occupy the power structures. We need to elect progressives. We need to explore our common visions, to combine our efforts, and to pool our very limited resources. We need to get the biggest bang for our buck and we need to be strategic to make sure that we understand that our individual efforts have a limited effect, but as a collective we can achieve great things."

> "We wanted to create a space where groups could network, learn about other groups around the province, and put on workshops that would identify issues of concern for them."
>
> **ELIZABETH SMYTH, POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

Ultimately, the forum was created to facilitate the sharing of ideas, experiences, and concerns. Though action or campaigns may yet emerge from the discussions, the organizers wanted to focus on the process and providing a space for groups to meet.

"There are two main challenges for progressive activists. One is the creation of alternatives that develop a vision and a generation of hope. The second is a resistance to power, domination, and repression," said Robert Ware, professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Calgary.

"The social forum process develops spaces for discussion, proposals, imagination, and hope; more generally, alternatives. This is of crucial importance."

Smythe said enthusiasm for the next Alberta Social Forum is already apparent and after recuperating from the weekend, the organizers and new volunteers will be eager to restart the organization process.

Smythe hopes to change the location to encompass more of Alberta but says that that will all be decided after a series of regional meetings and discussions amongst the willing participants.

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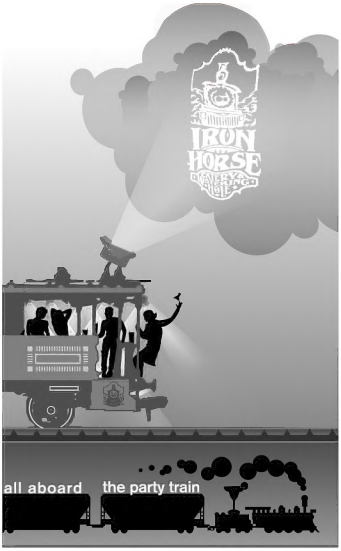

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Drownin' the Canadian Dream

U of A prof compares oil sands development to setting off 'world's arsenal of nuclear weapons'

ROBIN COLLUM
News Writer

At a recent Energy Utilities Board (EUB) hearing on two proposed oil sands development projects in northern Alberta, professor of ecology Dr David Schindler compared the environmental ramifications to dropping a hydrogen bomb on the area.

"People think it's an exaggeration. Actually, that's an underestimate," Dr Schindler says. He offers as an example one of the larger US test-bombings, Bravo, which left a crater 6000 feet wide on the island of Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

The average size of an oil sands development is 30 times that size, according to Schindler. "So I'd say it's more like taking the world's arsenal of nuclear weapons and setting them all off in the oil sands. That's the price we're paying for extracting all this energy, 60 per cent of which we send straight to the US," he explains.

He holds up a poster of the Syncrude North Mine, which shows a large vegetationless pit. He explains that efforts to reclaim land like this have been mainly unsuccessful, and studies have concluded that it's probably irreclaimable.

"When all these mines are in operation, all the ones that are proposed right now, an area like this will probably be about the size of Rhode Island—800 square miles or more. We're going to have a huge area that's going to be a moonscape forever. And yet this province has never turned down an energy project."

Oil sands are a mixture of bitumen, sand, water and clay. The bitumen is separated from the rest of the mixture.

Once separated, it can then be upgraded into a high-quality oil called synthetic crude. Although oil sands development in northern Alberta has created controversy over its potential environmental impacts, its supporters maintain that the economic benefits far outweigh any drawbacks.

Dr Schindler became involved in the oil sands development hearings because of a request from the Grand Chief of the Mikisew Cree band, located in the Fort Chipewyan area near the proposed developments.

One of the band's main concerns is the huge demand on water the developments will make. These two projects will be an enormous drain on the Athabasca River, and once used, the water will be too toxic to put back, explains Dr Schindler. Because of the chief's request, Schindler began researching other impacts the proposed developments will have on the area.

PHIL HEAD

BUT WILL THERE BE NUCLEAR WINTER? Ecology professor David Schindler.

> **"We're going to have a huge area that's going to be a moonscape forever. And yet this province has never turned down an energy project."**
>
> DR DAVID SCHINDLER, U OF A ECOLOGY PROFESSOR

The oil industry employs their own surveyors to look into the potential ramifications of future developments, but their results are skewed, according to Schindler.

They're often given insufficient time to complete their research. Also, there is no adequate referential data for them to work with. Bad science is involved in all phases of the research—experiments that don't follow the scientific method, poorly thought out protocols, and lack of consistency in application of findings are all major problems, says Schindler. Studies are published, but never for international peer review, because, insists Dr Schindler, "they're unpublishable."

Dr R Gordon Moore, head of chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Calgary, disagrees with Schindler's statements. "It sounds like he's coming from an assumption that the technology will continue unabated, without changing," says Dr Moore. "There is an effect on air and water, but the technology is always changing, and will find a solution."

He concedes that the new developments will draw on the Athabasca river, but insists that the storage ponds for the used water are up to industry standards. "It certainly is a concern, but I have faith that ongoing work will develop technology to deal with the realities."

In addition to condemning the individual developments, Dr Schindler has several recommendations on how to reform the industry in favor of the environment.

He believes the EUB should draw the line and suspend any further developments until there are good, reliable baseline conditions established. He says there should also be a database containing this information, run by the government but paid for by the industry. Companies would need to buy into it first in order to develop.

The federal government has already held hearings in Fort McMurray on the proposed developments, the results of which will be decided in a few months. However, anything they conclude can be overturned by the provincial government.

"We have a government that thinks the only thing of value is money," says Schindler. "I can see people in their 50s and 60s being complacent, but if I were under 40, I'd be outraged."

Gov't hopes students will benefit Alberta financially

INTERNATIONAL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"When these people go back to their countries, we automatically have contacts with people in other countries in regards to what Alberta is about. Alberta is not simply another place; it's a place they know something about, and that will help hugely economically."

Alberta is the first province to initiate such a pilot program with the federal government, and according to Oberg, this is due to his portfolio.

"I'm the only minister of learning who's also minister of immigration," he said. "I have a responsibility for both of those things, so it really has helped when it comes to negotiations with the federal government on this."

But according to the U of A Students' Union, the effort to attract international students signals the neglect of postsecondary education domestically.

"I think that, like we've said, we're always happy to see more international students, but the question really boils down to where the government's priorities are," said SU Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel.

It is Stevenson's view, however, that accessibility for Albertans will not be decreased by the endeavour.

> **"The message that I'm always trying to put out there is that the internationalization of universities is a good thing."**
>
> DR BRIAN STEVENSON, U OF A ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT (INTERNATIONAL)

"I'm not aware of any circumstance in which an international student in any way impedes the ability of a qualified Canadian student to come to university," said Stevenson. "As long as the student has the qualifications, they can come in. The international programs are really important for the University, they're important for the quality of education, they've been designed in such a way that they're not adding costs to the University, and that's why we have the differential fee."

Currently, the U of A is seeking to increase the percentage of undergraduate international students to approximately ten per cent from 3.2 per cent, and the percentage of international graduate students to 20 per cent from 5.8 per cent.

Stevenson stressed the relationship between a university's percentage of international students and its quality of education.

"The message that I'm always trying to put out there is that the internationalization of universities is a good thing," Stevenson argued.

"It's a good thing for the students, it's a good thing for the faculty, it's a good thing for the University. And the world is going very much in the direction of sharing knowledge and sharing information."

Donor hopes to encourage telecommunications research

DONATION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[Wireless communication] improves the usability of cell phones and computers tremendously," emphasized Sharma. "You can just use them wherever you are and not have to haul around wires."

The first holder of the Rohit Sharma Professorship in Communications and Signal Processing will be Sharma's former PhD supervisor, Dr Witold Krzymien, professor of computer and electrical engineering.

Dr Krzymien intends to use the endowment to fund two graduate students on his wireless communications research team, providing each student with $18–20 000 per year.

Krzymien's research will focus on how to increase the rate of information transference within a system's bandwidth. Bandwidth, Dr Krzymien explained, refers to the size of the spectrum through which data is transferred: the broader the band, the more information can be transmitted and the faster it can be sent.

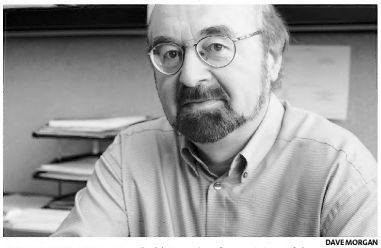
According faculty of engineering communications and public relations officer Sherrell Steele, the endowment is a significant gain for the faculty.

"We want to keep good students here and attract students from elsewhere," she said. "The more graduate students we can support, the richer our research will be."

Sharma agreed that his endowment fund will help the U of A attract top graduate students in engineering and strengthen the faculty even more.

"The U of A already has strong research in the area [of wireless communications], and if I could help them along in the area, that's what I wanted to do," he said.

"Our target in the faculty of engineering is to make it the best engineering school in Canada, period. If there's a scholarship available, we have a better chance of attracting students, and that is something I would very much like to see in the next few years."



DAVE MORGAN

AND THE WINNER IS... Dr Wiltold Krzymien, first recipient of the grant.

Year of events to promote cycling on campus

JENNIFER ROLLS
News Writer

In order to protect the environment and promote environmentally friendly transportation methods, the Students' Union has declared this year the Year of the Bike.

The SU has teamed up with the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS), Campus Crime Stoppers and Campus Security to promote the bicycle as a safe, healthy form of sustainable transportation that is not harmful to the environment. In one of many events, bicyclists are being encouraged to meet at noon in Quad on 23 October to participate in a Critical Mass Bike Ride around campus.

The goal of the ride, according to ECOS director Geneva Rae, is "to raise awareness that cyclists are commuters as well and demand a courtesy when it comes to commuting."

SU Vice-President (Student Life) Jadene Mah is encouraged by these different groups working together to promote the Year of the Bike. "Having all of these groups connected shows there is a need for things like greater bike parking and better-lit areas for bike racks and enclosures," she said.

ECOS and the SU hope that by next year, the University will have a campus bike centre where students can go to learn about bike maintenance and volunteer to fix bikes.

They also hope to develop a community bike program that would allow students to use bikes on campus for free. "There would be a universal bike lock that students would have access to so they could ride the bike across campus," explained Rae. A community bike program would also be beneficial to international students and students who live on campus but do not have a car, she said. "It would be a great way for them to get exercise or if they want to go grocery shopping or down to Whyte Avenue then they can take the bike."

> **"Having all of these groups connected shows there is a need for things like greater bike parking and better-lit areas for bike racks and enclosures."**
>
> JADENE MAH,
> SU VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

Campus Security has also created a program in honour of the Year of the Bike to deal with the threat of theft on campus. They have initiated an online bike registration system to track cycling on campus and bicycle serial numbers, which will aid them in case of theft.

Campus Security is also working with other groups on campus toward getting more bike parking, more covered bike parking, and safer bike parking for students and staff.

"The Year of the Bike has some big goals in mind," said Mah.

"Right now, we thought that uniting all these different programs together would be a great first step in getting the point across that there is a need for this."

SHAWN BENBOW

IT'S THE YEAR OF THE ... BIKE? At least according to the SU it is, buddy!

A-Channel... Station of broken promises

When A-Channel came to Edmonton 6 years ago, employees say the station made promises... promises that have been broken.

A-Channel workers in Edmonton have been on strike since September 17. From their perspective, the strike is about promises made... and promises broken.

They say they accepted low wages over the past several years in return for a promise they would get a bigger piece of the pie once A-Channel established itself.

Employees believe they've kept their end of the bargain. They've helped build A-Channel into an award winning station. But workers say the company has failed to make good on its word. A-Channel continues to dish out the lowest wages in the Edmonton television market.

Employees say A-Channel is also letting down the community. Its always claimed to be 'Very Edmonton'. Now, managers are threatening to move jobs to Calgary.

Things are so bad, A-Channel has become a revolving door. In just 3 years, more than 70 percent of the staff have quit. Striking workers believe something is seriously wrong when people are leaving in such numbers.

You can make a difference.

Viewers and advertisers have the power to make A-Channel live up to its promises!
Tune out A-Channel until the station tunes in... and keeps its promises.

For more information about our issues and concerns contact, CEP Local 1900
(780) 428-5270
www.cep1900.ca

OPINION

managing@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 23 october, 2003

There's more to me than my looks

IT IS, AT TIMES, DIFFICULT TO BE FEMALE. And I do not hide from the label "feminist," though it sometimes leaves a bad taste in the mouth, and many shrink away from being branded with this "ism." But my intent here is not to speak of feminism or the other more common complaints many women often make: menstruation, fear of rape, body image problems, and so on. Instead, I'd like to comment on some of the more subtle degradations that I've come to notice in the last year of my life.

I believe myself to be fairly down-to-earth and professional. I consider myself modest, but I wear what I like, as is my right. During interviews for news articles, I try to be polite and respectful, but assertive. I expect the same from those I work with and interview. But however much I respect myself, and regardless of the effort I put into being modest in manner and dress, my femininity is an undeniable subtext to my work.

It has stunned me again and again, how professional, middle-aged men believe that I will not notice them staring at parts of my body during interviews. And I honestly haven't a clue how to react, even after 22 years of life. This is new to me each and every time. At the end of my degree, despite countless political philosophy papers, despite writing an honor's thesis, despite my work with the *Gateway*, despite my volunteer work, despite the way I carry myself and communicate, my femininity continues to influence how others perceive and react to me. I am a woman—a sexualized woman—and no amount of modesty or self-respect can erase what my body means in the minds of others.

For years, I have worked part-time in a shoe repair business, as the sole employee, trained in the trade. Yet my advice for repairs is often dismissed by customers who prefer my male boss, despite my four years of experience. These people are not unfriendly: they chuckle at me—a "girl"—in a cobbler shop, fixing shoes. It's funny, it's sweet, it's an interesting gimmick. Some have told me that it's no wonder I was hired for the position—because I'm pretty, they say. Middle-aged men flirt with me, lean over the counter to get a better look, eyes to my face, my breasts, my ass—stubby fingers bearing wedding rings. They ask if I have a boyfriend, and if not, why; if so, they ask a myriad of other inappropriate questions with a distinctly slimy undertone.

One day a man came into the shop, and after discovering my boss wasn't around, left his shoes for my boss's perusal, ignored my attempts to advise him, and flew out of the shop, turning suddenly to call out: "Hey, you're really pretty," as if I ought to be flattered by his disrespect of my abilities, and his interest in my genetics.

While I realize that these comments are not meant maliciously at all, there is a sexual current running through these compliments which leaves me cold. There is the idea that as a woman, being pretty is more important than the quality of my work. They do not say "You certainly know a lot," but rather: "What's a pretty girl like you doing in a cobbler shop like this?" They wink, they smirk, they stare at my tits, and often ignore my advice.

I have other capacities, and want to be recognized for those. I do not feel good about myself when a customer remarks, "I think you've lost weight!" as if I ought to be flattered that he has paid such careful attention to my body. I want respect, not sexual attention.

I want to be smart, not pretty.

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Beware of dark streets

I WAS WALKING HOME the other night when two girls approached me. By the time one was walking directly behind me and the other beside me, I realized I was about to get mugged. Thankfully, someone happened to come down the street, facilitating my escape.

I've never felt nervous walking alone at night, but this encounter made me realize I should start watching out for myself before something serious happens to me. Maybe I'll take my roommate's advice and buy some bear mace.

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

LETTERS

Lister will continue to be in Crime Beat

I've heard too much whining in the past few weeks from Listerites claiming my column is unjustified and biased in reporting some of the incidents that have occurred in their residence.

Lister Hall is the worst residence on campus when it comes to self-inflicted extreme intoxication in relation to personal safety. This is not a matter of opinion or bias, but documented fact. These incidents do not occur with the same consistency and to the same degree at any other residence. Period. I've talked to almost every Constable with Campus Security, have seen the statistics and have even accompanied Constables on numerous occasions to witness a shift for myself. I've heard doctors from U of A Emergency lament the inevitable onslaught of Lister students who will occupy their weekend beds or require treatment after drinking insane amounts of liquor in a short period of time.

I have no negative bias towards Lister Hall: in fact, if anything, I think that Lister Hall is one of the most fun places to stay if you're going to live in residence. Listerites are among the most involved people on campus, in clubs, in sports and so on.

But it is also the highest concentration of co-habitating students on campus, many away from home for the first time, and the problems here are naturally going to be compounded. Almost every weekend from the beginning of the year, someone gets alcohol poisoning, or someone passes out in a bathroom, or someone takes a drunken nose-dive down a stairwell.

It's one of those things that sounds funny the next day, but at the time it can present a disturbing possibility of permanent injury, physical and psychological: it's all fun and games until someone ends up with alcohol-induced brain damage, or permanent injury from a fall, or is abused while they're so smashed they can hardly move. Serious injuries of this nature have occurred and will again in the future, based solely on a balance of probabilities.

So yes, I will continue to report on such incidents that occur, whether it's in Lister or any of the other U of A residences, because people deserve to know what's going on in their community. I try to balance it off with some stories we can all chuckle at too so the column doesn't get too gloomy. You can expect Lister to appear as a regular guest in the Crime Beat column so long as the problems persist, so I expect it'll be a fixture for some time.

As for having to justify reporting Lister troubles, there's something inherently justifiable in reporting the truth.

BARRIE TANNER
Campus Crime Beat

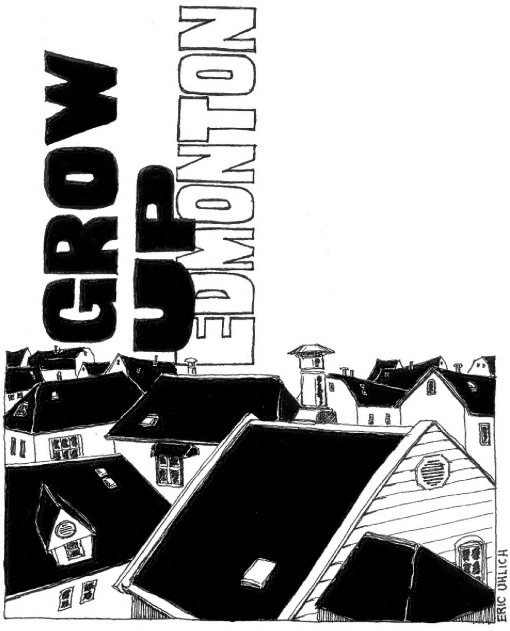
International students pay same as us, sort of

In response to Claire Bouloin's letter ("International students being gouged," 7 October): it only makes sense if you think about it. We as Canadians pay Canadian taxes, which subsidize Canadian students. Foreign students pay (insert country here)'s taxes, which subsidizes *their* students. In the US they only subsidize their own state's students, so if you're from California and want to go to Washington State, you pay more. The same goes for bursaries, grants, loans, and scholarships. If you look at the cost of international studies around the world, they are very, very expensive. This means we get a good deal with expensive education for (relatively) cheap.

But Canadians pay more in taxes than everyone else in the world (minus Sweden, God bless them), and my tuition is about $4500 a year. British students attending Oxford or Cambridge pay roughly half that (whereas I will have to pay about $21 000, all secured before I can go there). Now, the U of A is a good school, but twice as good as Oxford? Every undergrad gets a tutor there, with only six or so students under them. What are we doing here that costs so much?

I'd say we need to bitch to Parliament and the Legislature to further increase the tuition difference between Canadian and foreign students, but who has the time?

MATTHEW BERGSTROM
Engineering Physics IV



Let women have their own space

When I first read women were getting their own women-only room, I laughed. I laughed because I knew it was going to cause a storm of needless controversy.

I don't understand why so many adults are so upset about one small room. I see a bunch of guys up in arms because they feel somehow offended that women have established such a place. This makes no sense to me. Are we women? Can we claim to know exactly what women feel, think, or need?

The fact that this room even exists demonstrates that so many women have been offended in such a variety of ways and severity so often they felt they had to institute a male-free zone. If they feel they need such a refuge, then they probably do. Lets not assault their rights further by claiming infringement of our own. The truth is, we men have enjoyed the top niche in the world for millenia. It's time to practice what we preach.

Does this room somehow threaten my male identity or ego? No, except that in discussing the issue I may betray my true bias. It seems to me that while we men are thumping our chests and arguing about the definitions of equality and tolerance, we have lost sight of the practice of them. We do not need to understand why the women did what they did. Equality and tolerance are about allowing someone the opportunity to do something we may not fully understand or condone.

JOSHUA WIEBE
Education IV

Equality's still a long way off

I want to respond to the letters and columns railing against the portion of the women and transgendered centre on campus that excludes males. One gets the impression from the letters that the entire place is off-limits. This is simply untrue and casts an entirely different spin on the matter.

It appears odd to me that it takes an overt act like this to get people thinking and talking about the very realities of gender disparity. It appears to be very easy to cry "discrimination" in this instance but I have to wonder where these people stand on the other, less overt, acts of gender inequality. Take, for instance, the questions: why is the lack of universal daycare in Canada considered a woman's problem? Or why is the Canadian domestic worker policy so insidious? Or why is sex education in schools penis-oriented?

If you don't know the answers to these questions, maybe you should do some research before declaring, as one letter-writer did, "Our society is making such huge efforts to create equality for women."

VICTORIA LAIDLAW
Arts III

Now is not the time for a woman-only space

While Kirsten McCrea is right in her article ("Women-only space is not just about equality," 16 October) in stating significant gender inequality issues exist in society today, the issue with the women's centre is that, at a time when reading rooms are being closed annually and class sections cancelled, an area that goes against the university spirit of inclusion has been created using university funds.

She mentions that the reverse discrimination argument doesn't hold up because men-only areas exist in society. True, but we're not talking about society. Many students would have no issue with the women-only area if it was not on campus since the discrimination of men-only areas that the women-only area tries to correct doesn't exist here.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 8

MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Many of the gender inequality issues that exist can be fixed (or at a minimum worked on) without the women-only room. The women's centre has, in a recent poster, pointed out that 17 of the 20 University Board of Governors members are male. This is a valid complaint and one that should be taken seriously. But opening up a women-only room isn't the answer to this; running for the position of student representative on the Board of Governors is. As I recall, there were only two candidates running for this position last year and neither were female. This is not the fault of men. Running for the Board of Governors is a far more productive way to tackle this issue of inequality than a women-only room.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, the reason there is so much opposition to the women-only room is that it just smells wrong. A dangerous precedent has been set, that one minority (or in this case perhaps a majority) can exclude another. No group on campus should be able to exclude another, whether it be by gender, race, religion or age. The women's only room has done that.

BRYCE KUSTRA
Arts II

Statistics don't prove anything, McCrea

The furor over the women's space seems to be dying down, and it'll soon be just a bad memory that most of us will forget. Why can't Kirsten McCrea ("Women-only space is not just about equality", 16 October) let it rest? Far worse than simply continuing the issue is the absurd manner in which she does it, with a long list of meaningless statistics. 96 per cent of top executives are white males? 90-some per cent of Hollywood big shots are male? Most world leaders are male? Women just can't get ahead in such an oppressive male patriarchy?

Oh, please.

What about the fact that women represent 82 per cent of Canadian healthcare and social assistance workers, 67 per cent of educational service employees, or, more shocking, that the only university faculties with a higher percentage of men are Math and Applied Sciences and Engineering? Women dominate every other faculty. 71 per cent of education students are women. 64 per cent of humanities, and 67 percent of Fine Arts students are women. And the list goes on. The *Gateway*'s own Aaron Braaten ("Grouphink spawned women-only space", 14 October) dealt in part with essentially this same issue.

Men aren't living in a female-dominated world by the remotest stretch of the imagination. But the oppressive patriarchy is a thing of the past. Statistics like those used by McCrea are meaningless. So are the ones I used. Anyone can surf over to the Statistics Canada website and choose some numbers that prove a random point, like I just did.

Just because world leaders tend to be male doesn't mean that a male conspiracy is lurking in the shadows, trying to keep the good women of this world down. By that rationale, our university system is slowly being overrun by dangerous, man-hating lesbians. It isn't, is it?

PARKER WELLS
Science I

Boardrooms aren't 'male-only' clubs

I know the commotion regarding the women-only space died down somewhat in the Letters section, but I can't avoid the urge to comment on Kirsten McCrea's latest article ("Women-only space is not just about equality," 16 October).

Born a white middle-class male, there are certain things in Canadian society that I have dealt with throughout my upbringing. Too young to be a part of any major equality movements, I've benefited from knowledge of the past. I've been taught the necessity of racial balance, the importance of fighting gender discrimination, and most ardently, the unfairness of stereotyping.

McCrea made an error in her argument; she categorized several professions as "male-only" where an intrinsic distinction should have been made. These professions are not male-only, but simply male-dominated. To me that's a huge difference. Her statistics included "80-90 per cent" of Hollywood guilds being male, and "of the 44 board members of the top five Hollywood talent agencies, only four are women..." which is unfortunate, but obviously not male-only.

The logic here is that even after evident research, current influential male-specific groups cannot be found. From early civilizations, through religion and government, world cultures have been predominantly patriarchal. This is an immutable fact that cannot be altered, but the point is that an effort is being made for the future. Any exclusionary organization, especially on a modern university campus, is a regression, plain and simple. Show me a male-only or white-only room and I'll fight that too.

ALEX SIELMANN
Arts II

Support independent campus media

I am writing this letter in praise of Patrick Sunderland's article about the virtues of CJSR ("Don't be a dazed rabbit, listen to CJSR," 9 October). Love it or hate it, you cannot deny that CJSR is Edmonton's true radio alternative.

However, there is one more thing that would be worth mentioning about CJSR. CJSR may play funky music that makes you dance the night away and wake you up on those mornings when you've had 30 minutes of sleep the night before because you were up all night writing that paper critiquing Gramsci's theory of global hegemony. Don't forget that CJSR is always looking for new volunteers with new ideas (no prior experience required).

A special "thank you" to everyone who donated their hard-earned moula to CJSR's fundrive!

ZOHREH SAHER
CJSR Volunteer
Political Science Graduate Studies

Paul Martin is the devil incarnate

Shortly Paul Martin will assume the dictatorial powers instituted by Jean Chrétien. Or should I say our saviour, the 65-year-old Liberal who stands for change while preserving his party's past, will be crowned with his absolute power—dissent and ye shall be back-benched, ask for money in PM's riding (previously Shawinigan) and ye shall be endowed (especially when PM has money invested in endeavor), state a position and ye shall be silenced.

Most recently Edmonton's own David Kilgour, under order from the central command to vote along caucus lines, skipped out on the critical marriage definition bill recently in parliament. It has come to a point where our politicians can't even voice their beliefs freely. We as a country continually decline, as the legacy of Liberal past facilitates our continuous embarrassment on the world stage.

Paul Martin stands for no change whatsoever. Three terms later our country will be in a sadder state of affairs embroiled in an iron grip wrenched tighter by the Dictliberatorial Party. If Paul Martin refuses to turn this country around, we as Canadians have to grow some balls and overthrow the status quo that suffocates us. Instead of trying to prevent the worst-case scenario with your vote, realize this is worst-case scenario.

PAUL STRATTON
Science I

SU-Administration lobby effort unpalatable for some

University Provost Carl Amrhein is correct that a joint lobbying effort between the University administration, Students' Union, and Graduate Students' Association is an excellent and long overdue idea. However, he errs in assuming that an acceptance by the SU of two consecutive maximum tuition hikes is necessary in order to achieve that lobbying effort. There is no reason that the SU and the administration cannot continue to experience their on-campus differences while still presenting an united front to the government and public.

Amrhein argues that, unless the SU willingly submits to maximum tuition hikes, the effect of any joint lobbying effort will be reduced. In fact, it may be heightened—if the SU is arguing that students can't reasonably be expected to pay any more, and the University administration is arguing that it has no alternative but to increase tuition, both positions ultimately serve as arguments for increased government funding. The University administration should agree to lobby jointly with the SU for additional provincial funding to post-secondary education whether or not the SU agrees to maximum tuition increases.

The administration is proposing a marriage, of sorts, that would ultimately work out to the benefit of students, who should accept the proposal. However, it is insulting to some students' religious beliefs that the administration wants to screw them in advance of this marriage.

STEVE SMITH
Students' Union Business Councilor

Grant MacEwan ain't so bad

This is my first year at University of Alberta and my third year of post-secondary education. I transferred here from GMC (or G-Mac, according to some) and have a few things to say in defense of the institution in response to Ross Moroz's comments ("U of A students have nothing to bitch about," 16 October"). I will admit that in my first year of higher education, I was initially embarrassed to admit that I was attending a community college, but after experiencing four semesters there, I would recommend it to anyone.

In my experience, GMC has way smaller classes. The largest class I had was 82 people in Bio 207, whereas, in my first semester here, I have two classes breaking the 300 mark.

Second, all of the "instructors" that I had at GMC were PhDs without exception. In fact, I took more than ten lab courses there, and all but two of my lab instructors were PhDs, which is more than I can say for the grad students teaching all my U of A labs. I had one instructor who also teaches at the University, but for the most part, the instructors that teach at GMC are happy to be there. So is the quality of instruction better at Grant MacEwan? I sure think so!

As for the fashion show, hey, if you're saving more than $2000 a year on tuition (one year's tuition was $2400 for me) why not go out and buy a couple pairs of $185 jeans and a tube of sparkle lip gloss?

STEPH COMPARELLI
Environmental Biology III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be **brief**!

Bill is coming...

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The media's turned us into a bunch of lazy, believe-anything chumps

DAVID BERRY

I am an absolute news whore. I will read, watch or listen to just about anything I can get my filthy little hands on, the *Edmonton Examiner* included. Now, normally this news fetish just makes me barrels of fun at parties, with the added bonus of increasing my understanding of the world around me, but lately it has caused me to notice some disturbing goings-on.

First of all, I desperately need a girlfriend, because I have way more time on my hands than any one man should. Second, and perhaps more importantly, my old friend the media hasn't exactly been holding up his end of that pact we made down by the train tracks all those years ago. You see, I agreed to become a slave to his every whim; a faithful devotee hanging on every word his pundits, anchors and correspondents spoke or wrote. In return, all I asked was that he be straightforward with me. Hell, he could even get away with sleeping around with a bunch of corporate interests, as long as he obeyed the Joe Friday rule of reporting and gave me "just the facts, ma'am."

And we went along like that for a while, laughing and playing in the sunshine that was the trustworthiness of a free press. But all good things, like ridiculous metaphors, must come to an end. Nowadays, I trust the standard report I see on cable news networks to be fair and balanced about as much as I trust my shiftless editor not to throw sharp objects at me when my back is turned. Which of course is to say not very much at all.

> **Nowadays, I trust the standard report I see on cable news networks to be fair and balanced about as much as I trust my shiftless editor not to throw sharp objects at me when my back is turned.**

This growing mistrust came to a head recently when, during one of my forays into our local weeklies, I came across a darling of a report that the University of Maryland recently released from their program on International Policy Attitudes that shows just how influential media can be on our views of the world. It also demonstrates just how far off some of the views that they're influencing are. In this report, focusing on the media topic *du jour* in the US, the war in Iraq, researchers note that an alarming 45 per cent of Fox News viewers actually believed that not only had the US government found strong links between Iraq and Al-Qaeda and that the US had found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but also that the international community had been supportive of Washington's actions regarding Iraq.

Now it would be easy, not to mention fun and hilarious, to blame those rubes down in the USA for not being critical enough of their sources. The same study also notes that among listeners/viewers of alternative news sources, such as PBS or National Public Radio, the number who believed these same things fell to a meagre four per cent.

But this misses the point. The very fact that we need alternative news sources, not to mention the fact that there are such huge differences between the attitudes of audiences of different sources, means that there is something drastically wrong with the media in general. The media has gone from being an objective viewer to a multitude of institutions within the institution, each with their own slant. Now I have no philosophical qualm with the idea of a slant; after all, everyone is entitled to their own opinion. What concerns me is the fact that this slant is extending outside the realm of editorials, opinion pieces and analysts to actual, bare-bones reporting.

As soon as any member of the media, mainstream or otherwise, ignores facts, selectively chooses its stories or puts a general "spin" on a particular issue and passes it off as a regular news story, it has failed to do its job in providing its audience with an objective, unbiased account. And it also makes me wonder just who the whore in this relationship of mine is.

Millwoods isn't the same white-picket-fence suburban utopia it used to be

SARAH HANASYK

> "Bill Smith contends that the solution to this rash of violence is to eradicate the drug trade and increase penalties on possession and usage. This may be a grand solution, but making something less accessible will only make it more desirable, especially when it comes to something as relatively harmless as pot."

All right, that's it. I've reached the point where my aggravation has become a large enough distraction from my unemployed quest to pass *Super Mario 2*. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the drug-dealing, gang-supporting, gun-wielding ass clowns for continuing to convince this city that my home of Millwoods is merely code for "Reco'nize, bitch!" Because of you, every time I tell someone where I live, I can sense that wandering gaze, trying to detect my concealed bulletproof vest. Because of you, I must explain that no, I don't routinely get shot at on my way to the mall. And because of you, *my* gang had to relocate to the north end. Okay, that's not true. I hate the north end.

Once again, some belligerent youth has abased what used to be considered a quaint, pleasant place to live. That's right, Millwoods was once all the rage in the real-estate world. It was quiet, far-removed neighbourhood that still provided needed services enabling even the most debilitated shut-ins the shortest possible wait for their weekly anti-psychotics delivery. Then, a few years ago, some gangs decided that it would be the perfect place to make into their own personal *Menace II Society*. One incident, we could have just chalked up to random city-related violence; but soon it became three, four, then pretty soon all anyone heard about—or at least, paid attention to—were the shooting occurrences in Millwoods.

Now, it's happened again. As Edmonton's third gangland slaying in the past month, 17-year-old Richard Prasad was killed in what was described as "a drug deal gone bad" not ten blocks from my house, adding to a string of 14 fatal drug-related shootings since 2002. While tragic for him and his family, am I worried about *my* life and my neighborhood? Am I willing to pack up and leave, as some families have chosen in the past? Of course not. Unlike some, I can differentiate my life from Edmonton's squalid underbelly and realize that the vast majority of these crimes encompass the gang drug community only, and any innocents who become involved do so purely from someone's inability to recognize the appropriate hit.

Bill Smith contends that the solution to this rash of violence is to eradicate the drug trade and increase penalties on possession and usage. This may be a grand solution, but making something less accessible will only make it more desirable, especially when it comes to something as relatively harmless as pot. And isn't this inaccessibility to drugs what is spawning most of this violent activity in the first place?

But I'm not here to defend the legalization of pot. I believe we need to enact more effective deterrents early in life to assure young adults never join a gang in the first place. This method of social cohesion is attracting those who, among other things, feel lost in society, empowering them within a "family" of their own—a situation more likely with smaller minority groups with unequal say in the community. And because my home of Millwoods is undoubtedly made up of a larger percentage of non-Caucasian individuals than maybe other Edmonton areas, it is by logic more likely that crime involving these groups would occur here. Of course I would never be so ignorant to assume that minority races commit all, or even most crime. I'm saying look to the source—be it geographical or social—and understand how these assumptions can evolve. Then maybe we can begin to target the appropriate areas in intervention and prevention.

Don't fear "The Wood." It's really a pretty safe place to live, and I've been here my entire life and never once had to dodge the hail of gunfire.

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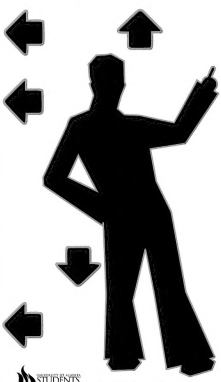

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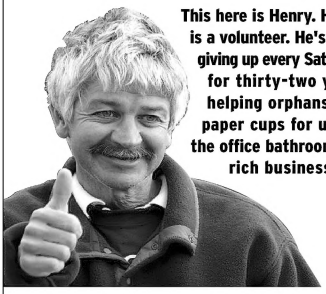

This here is Henry. Henry is a volunteer. He's been giving up every Saturday for thirty-two years helping orphans fold paper cups for use in the office bathrooms of rich businessmen.

You can be a volunteer too.
Just haul your energetic self up to our office in 3-04 SUB and talk to any editor you happen to see. That's all it takes. And before you drop by, ask that bastard Henry to hurry up. We're out of cups.

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Alberta needs a star-studded, musclebound leader, too

CHRIS ANDRÉ

With the Terminator himself leading California into a new era of kickassedness, it has become abundantly apparent to me that our lovely Alberta needs its own action hero/political leader. Now, don't get me wrong, Ralph Klein isn't all bad, but we can only take so many drunken debacles each year before things just get embarrassing.

Besides, ol' Ralph can't hold a candle to a man like Arnie. If terrorists or aliens were ever to threaten the peace in California, rest assured Arnie would be in there whooping ass while spouting off witty one-liners like nobody's business. Clearly, that's the kind of leader we need in Alberta. Unfortunately, there is only one Arnold Schwarzenegger and he's kind of busy. But fear not, for there are many nearly as good candidates for our humble province. Let's run down the list, shall we?

Sylvester Stallone: Rivaling Arnie in the "Is he speaking English?" department, Sly's definitely a solid candidate. At 5'10", the Italian Stallion is a bit smaller than some of our other heroes, but he may just be the toughest. Sly knows all about international affairs, having blown the shit out of countless foreigners in the *Rambo* series.

He's also experienced in the policies of the future, after being thawed out in *Demolition Man*. Lets not forget the lighter side of the man, demonstrated in such classics as *Stop! Or my Mom Will Shoot*. Of course, no candidate can truly shine unless he can relate to the people, and Sly is the big winner in this category, having fought as the everyman in the *Rocky* series.

Maybe the next Premier of Alberta?

Bruce Willis: Bruce may have gone soft on us in recent years with such treasures as *The Kid*, but I think we can all agree that Detective John McClane is still ready to *Die Hard* for a cause—and what better cause than the prosperity of Alberta? The most rounded of all our candidates, Bruce has done everything from saving the world from a giant space rock to charming us all as the voice of Spike in the latest *Rugrats* adventure. There isn't a territory Bruce hasn't covered.

Bruce shines above the other candidates in his knowledge of the ever-important oil industry, proven in the 1998 classic *Armageddon*. Sure, he's been a crazed lunatic in many movies and has a sordid past, but as a friend so succinctly put it, "Bruce Willis fucking rules!"

Tom Cruise: Tom is the runt of the bunch, but what this pint-sized hero lacks in size, he makes up in unmatched charisma. Tom could charm the pants off a nun, which is exactly what Alberta requires in a leader. Quite frankly, Alberta has a bum reputation with the rest of Canada; Tom's winning smile and incredible charm could do much for out-of-province relations. Show us the money, Thomas.

Natasha Henstridge: Action hero might be a bit of a stretch for this girl, but her sex-crazed alien from *Species* would give even Arnie a run for his money. What's not to love about this homegrown gal? Not only has she earned some action credentials in such gems as *Maximum Risk* and *She Spies*, but she also hails from Fort McMurray. This lady knows Alberta through and through, and she'll strive to make her home province the best it can be.

There you have it, four candidates who deserve, no, demand a shot at Alberta's premiership. So, which action star should lead Alberta into California's undoubtedly successful footsteps? I'll let the people decide.

Hetero party scene lame lately? Try an evening at a gay night club

TREVOR PANAS

"If homosexuals are allowed to marry, there will be that many fewer patronizing Edmonton's best night clubs, which brings me to the main point of this article: if you want to have a good time, gay bars are where it's at."

I'm opposed to gay marriage, but not because I believe the family structure will be compromised or my well-thumped Bible says I'll go to hell where they'll let rabid cats use my scrotum as a scratching post for the rest of eternity if I support the sodomites. The reason, my friends, is I believe it will strike a serious blow against the party scene in our fair city.

You see, single people party; married people do so far less often. And no one—and I mean no one—parties like gay people. If homosexuals are allowed to marry, there will be that many fewer patronizing Edmonton's best night clubs, which brings me to the main point of this article: if you want to have a good time, gay bars are where it's at. How do I know this? Because of a fine evening spent at Buddy's night club. Here's why gay bars (and this one in particular) are awesome:

The entrance: On a typical Whyte Avenue night, you can look forward to a 45-minute wait in line, followed by a ridiculous cover charge, and the request for 43 pieces of photo ID from a surly bouncer with a steroid addiction. Go to a gay bar, and there are never any lineups, and if you're lucky enough, you won't have to pay cover. The bouncer will comment on your nice ass, which, if you let him grab it, negates the necessity of ID. This may also be why I never pay cover.

The atmosphere: Think crazy. If you've never been to a gay bar, this is what will amaze you most. Leave your inhibitions at the door. Men and women alike can be found shakin' their "groove thangs" alone, as couples, or in large groups, bumping, grinding and often flashing their naughty bits around dance floors that are often equipped with cages and mirrors. No gangsta wannabes here; just wild enthusiasm for dancing, drinking and partying.

Fame and fortune: That's right, you too can actually *make* money by going to a gay bar. The second time I ever went to such an establishment, I ended up naked on stage during amateur strip night, windmilling to the beat of "Sex Bomb." For my efforts, I was presented with five crisp $20 bills, which, combined with the smorgasbord of free drinks bought for me by complete strangers afterwards, paid for an entire night of drinking, plus the cab home.

The patrons: The main reason I go to bars is usually to drink and talk with interesting people. At a regular bar, it is often difficult to strike up conversation with others, because men think you're gay and women think you're trying to pick them up. At a gay bar, conversation is easy to find, and it's always interesting.

The girls: Yes, indeed, my sexually frustrated comrade. Now, I'm not single but I do understand *laissez-faire* economics, and it boils down to supply and demand. The straight girls who frequent gay clubs have only a very limited selection of straight men to choose from, so if you're straight, you're set. The women, befitting of the atmosphere, have few inhibitions, are fun to party with, and most often try to pick *you* up—occasionally in pairs, or, if you happen to have gotten naked that night on stage, in threes.

The bottom line is mainstream bars could learn a lot from some of our less well known establishments, where the bartenders often leave their posts to come dance and slap some ass on the dance floor and the atmosphere is simultaneously relaxed, open, fun and sexually charged. You don't have to bat for the other team to enjoy gay bars. And in all seriousness, I hope the federal government passes its same-sex legislation; you men and women have worked and suffered long enough, and you deserve it.

Strong, buff women should be adored

EMILY SMIT

"Since when did being strong become exclusively a man's domain? It seems unjust that our quest for muscle power is disturbing, but your bulging veins and complete absence of a neck are deemed attractive. Personally, I fail to see the allure of lats so huge, wiping your ass is a challenge."

Have you ever noticed those muscle-bound mega hunks at the gym who are so ripped, you're scared their pipes might burst right in front of your eyes? How can you miss these Creatine- and protein-packed supermales? Have you ever observed the odd female among them? Have you ever asked the general male population what they think of bench-pressing gals?

Before this rant turns into a sappy hip-hop song, I'll let you in on a little secret. Apparently, girls who lift weights are "butch," according to the most men. Some say these women are just "too manly," while others simply state a chick with pipes is "disturbing." Since when did being strong become exclusively a man's domain? It seems unjust that our quest for muscle power is disturbing, but your bulging veins and complete absence of a neck are deemed attractive. Personally, I fail to see the allure of lats so huge, wiping your ass is a challenge.

Perhaps many of the bigger issues of equality are or have been resolved but other societal norms are still double standards for women. *Jackass*- and *CKY*-type shows have heightened the funny-factor of male nudity; guys running, skiing—doing pretty much anything—without clothing is hysterical, but predict the public reaction if women pulled the same stunts. It would be scandalous.

Along the same line, how many women do you know who openly discuss masturbation? If I were pumped full of testosterone and had some extra appendage between my legs, you wouldn't be nearly as shocked that I mention such a risqué topic. During casual conversation with three of my male friends, I had no trouble discovering their individual weekly practices, how often they "serviced themselves," and much more. However, when I approached girls with the same topic of discussion, the reaction was entirely different: their appalled, shocked, and embarrassed response left me feeling a bit like a perv.

Still, I realize this is a generalization, and furthermore, I won't deny the sword is double-edged. It sucks to be a suppressed female, but give the boys a break, they're victims of sexism too.

As you've probably guessed, I'm not ashamed to proclaim my feminism, but more importantly, I'd like to state my equalism. Yes, it seems unfair that guys can bench-press without judgment while their female counterparts are criticized, but women are not the only victims of double standards. Take, for instance, the liberal "feminist" who harps non-stop about female suppression, equal rights in the workplace, respect for women in power and so on. This is all well and good until this equal rights advocate expects her guy to pay for their dates.

In extreme cases, certain aspects of feminism have gone overboard; falling into the muddy domain of sexism. For example, new women-only fitness clubs like "Exclusively Women's" and "Spa Lady" are presented as a modern part of female liberation, when in fact they are clearly oppressive and discriminatory. Imagine the uproar if an "Exclusively Men's" gym opened up shop. Feminists would have a field day. "Equal rights," we would scream. So have we decided that equal rights for males are optional? Now, if both "Exclusively Men's" and "Exclusively Women's" gyms co-existed, I wouldn't have a problem because equality is active. Clubs, teams, gyms, even safe spaces can be single gender as long as there is a counter-gender equivalent. The type of feminism that suppresses males gives true feminism a bad name and is detrimental to the concept of equality.

Perhaps, just for today, I'll put aside my body-building aspirations and exercise my equality by treating my date to dinner.

Got cavities? Get a second opinion

MELVIN BACKSTROM

Dentistry is one career choice I've never quite been able to understand. Spending most of your work time staring into people's mouths seems like a rather unpleasant work experience. I guess there's a financial incentive, but especially with society's general improvement in dental health, I can't see myself getting too excited about learning how to whiten teeth, which seems to be an ever increasingly important source of income.

Not that I have anything against dentists personally. I like my teeth and think it's great that there are people out there whose job it is to help keep them healthy. However, I find myself somewhat skeptical of the whole profession.

After I finished high school and moved out on my own, the once-a-year dental checkups that my parents paid for came to an end. I didn't have enough money to go myself, the $150 or so that it costs for a cleaning/cavity check was rather prohibitive. Besides, I brush regularly and even floss pretty often. Plus, I eat a pretty healthy, mostly sugar-free diet which would seem to make cavities unlikely. Obviously if a tooth started to hurt, I could always get it checked out, but otherwise why bother?

So I went for five years without seeing a dentist. Then I went to Grant MacEwan College to study music and found out that as a student there I was automatically part of a dental plan that allowed me one free dental checkup per year. "Might as well use it," I thought, and booked an appointment with one of the dentists covered by the plan.

After having my teeth cleaned and my mouth X-rayed and looked over by the dentist, I was told that I had not one, not two, but *five* cavities. This came as a bit of a shock, as I had not felt any pains in my teeth that would indicate that I had even one. They booked me for another appointment to get them fixed, but not having a lot of money at the time—I would have to have paid half the cost of each filling—and having some doubts about the veracity of the diagnosis, I never showed up.

About a year later, I decide again to get my "free" teeth cleaning, but this time with a different dentist. How many cavities did I have? Surprise, surprise: zero.

What, I say, what is going on here? Could I have somehow "cured" my cavities with my non-fluoridated toothpaste? Which dentist was right? Still not feeling any pain in my teeth, I had to think the latter, but this left me with some rather disturbing thoughts about the dentistry profession in general.

When you think about it, a dentist telling you that you have a cavity when you can't feel one involves a rather obvious conflict-of-interest, as they are the ones who will probably financially benefit from your getting it fixed. It's highly unlikely that most people are going to bother to get a second opinion, but—especially when it involves the use of a mercury/silver amalgam—it'd probably be a good idea. In fact, what the hell are dentists doing still grafting mercury, an element that is toxic at any level, onto people's teeth? Mercury has as much reason to be inside the human body as lead or fluoride does. Yes, you read that right. Contrary to what you've been told, fluoride is *not* good for you (more information on that at www.fluoridealert.org).

It's been now a few years since that last visit, and I'm thinking it's probably about time for another one. If the dentist tells me I have a cavity, though, you can bet your life I'm going to ask to see some evidence. And if it turns out I do have cavities, they aren't going to be filled with mercury.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Signs you're in an insensitive mental institution

10 Breakfast consists of fruitcake, nutbars, and Cocoa Puffs.
9 Silk-screened on your straight jacket: "I'm Nucking Futs!!!"
8 The only thing sharp they ever confiscate is aged cheese.
7 Management replaced the rubber room with a sharp-rusty-objects room.
6 Loudspeakers play the *Looney Tunes* theme 24-7.
5 Mascot named Phobia Pete dispenses medication with his semi-accurate Pill-a-pult.
4 The wearing of Napoleon hats is strictly enforced.
3 Shock treatment consists of telling you you're criminally insane then yelling, "Psyche on a bike!"
2 They won't let you catch the angry little gnome that hides in the orderlies' pants.
1 Sign over front entrance: "Warning: May Contain Nuts."

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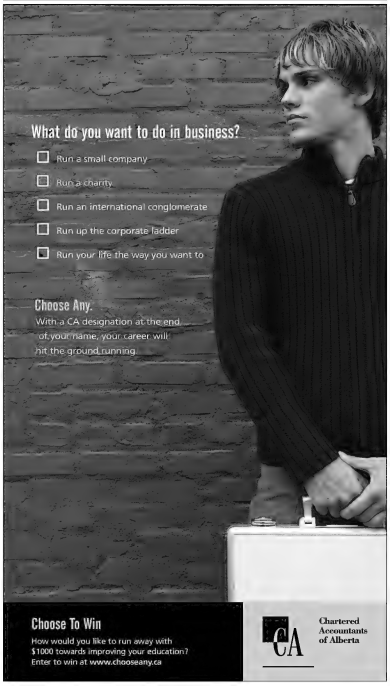

Men have evolved into the metrosexual

PATRICK SUNDERLAND

It must've been somewhere early in junior high when the rest of the pack, in an upstart, sexually-imbalanced frenzy, proceeded to up the ante. We had all just sorta' become aware of this queer entity known as fashion, now all the boys who were too cool for school began stockpiling arsenals of Levis and Starter jackets, rendering obsolete drawers of Hypercolor T-shirts and NHL-logo sweatpants. But I was not ready for this...

Deodorant? Goddammit, this is so fucking needless! I smell like rosebuds when I sweat. But for the sake of God, country, and good hygiene, they began pushing speed sticks on us. The bar had been raised, and like blind stupid animals, we all became Mennen men.

There was no other option really, not unless you wanted to be in a category with the smelly kids. After all, having BO can degrade you to an unfriendly social circle. Bo knows one thing, and that is he would rather get the Black Plague or learn he had a scorching case of gonorrhea before having BO. Learning you stink on a *per diem* basis is as horrible an insult as being called a creep—the teenage equivalent to being a pedophile—and it'll land you one step closer to playing with that kid with head lice.

Oh, but it didn't end at deodorant; that was just the tip. The stash of dyes, colours, gels, waxes, colognes, and crèmes began to proliferate unstoppably. As we passed from careless boys into conscious men, grooming either became one of the three pillars along with sports and girls, or else you were relegated to the company of dudes with rat-like facial hair playing with *Magic* cards next to the boiler room at lunch.

And why not, really? The benefits of grooming are endless. We've reached a new era wherein your standard heterosexual can make a regular appointment at the tanning salon, have his hair streaked and coiffed, and purchase $40 face cream without anyone batting an eye. For twenty bucks you can even buy a dandified nail clipper, but don't worry, nobody will laugh because it's marketed as a "sports manicure."

Sure. And that European carry-all isn't a purse.

Do you resemble this description? If so, pop culture has dubbed a term pertaining to you my friend: you are a *metrosexual*.

Amid the apparent fashion-conscientiousness of some of our brethren, it seems to have become incumbent on straight urban males to pay greater mind to self-manicuring. But let's make one thing good and clear, old sport: it is still very much taboo to openly speak about personal grooming with other males in a public discourse. For instance, I can't just talk to my buddies about plucking eyebrows or shaving my balls! This isn't bloody Holland!

Has it always been this way, or did Calvin Klein and company catch on to the subtle grooming habits of men, drumming up a train wreck of momentum for moisturizers and salves? Do you remember that commercial that ran a few years ago with "Ironhead" Hayward, depicting him in the shower with one of those puff balls drenched in body wash? "But Ironhead, what about this thingy?" the commercial asked. I'll tell you what: if a monster of a man like Ironhead, who savaged offensive lines and quarterbacks for over a decade in the NFL, is permitted to use an aromatic scented puff, then so are you and I. Because, to some extent, the "man code" is gradually eroding. New technology and demographically-selected product placement has afforded you a closer shave, moister skin, a more perfect unibrow.

There is, however, a certain amount of pride associated with a more caveman-like concern toward one's appearances. Have you ever lived the beach lifestyle for any prolonged period of time, when the ocean serves as a giant bath, saltwater coils and rusticates your hair and your most pressing housekeeping is making sure your bedsheets aren't covered in sand from walking around the terrain barefoot; when the only vanity product you really need is tanning oil to add your body into becoming a darkened mat? Or how about the woodsman's lifestyle: where you hunt moose and chipmunks, wear lots of flannel, and bathe weekly in glacial lakes? Your unkempt beard and pungent odor are of no concern to the bears; the only recourse being that the flies buzz around you in greater frequency, and the wild dogs sniff relentlessly at your crotch.

So what, then, is the preferred guideline for maintaining one's appearance? None, really. If you elect to come to Uni swarthy and colourful-smelling, or whether you are the flaminest flamer who ever played for the Calgary Flames, or you lift a lot of weights and chew a lot of gum—it's all up to you, brother. Diversity is good for campus. Just try to avoid the hygienic traits of this band of gypsy carpenters who are squatting in a shitty old truck across the street from my apartment. I've walked by them in the morning just as these half-naked hobos emerged coughing and spitting from their truck/tent, and they could really benefit from a scented lather-builder—uh, I mean "puff."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE BROWN

BECOMING THE METROSEXUAL Grooming, perfumes and crèmes are a must.

THE BURLAP SACK

I'm not an abusive person. Sure, you might find me out in the middle of the street in my housecoat on a Saturday morning shouting at "those loudmouth shit-fucks," but it's not like I have a temper or anything.

Imagine, then, how far I need to be pushed in order to issue a most savage sack beating against Edmonton's leaders. I'm not just talking about Bill Smith, though. I refer to the entire city for a plethora of offences.

Every summer, thousands of Edmontonians converge on the bustling city centre's Sir Winston Churchill Square to enjoy the diversity of festivals that happen in the city every year. The square, as it currently stands, is pretty decent. It certainly serves the needs of its citizen. So why does the city want to coat the whole damn thing in concrete? That's not beautification. That's the destruction of a city landmark.

To add to their questionable architectural decisions, the city is considering tearing down the downtown Baccarat Casino, only to build a larger abonimtion next door to the old one. Not only is this a colossal waste of potential residential and commercial space (commercial in this case excludes casinos) but it will continue to add to the problem of poverty to which these gambling establishments contribute.

Finally, though I promised that I would steer clear of placing our mayor in the sack, I cannot help but tear into him because of his knee-jerk statements about Edmonton's War on Drugs. Smith cannot simply drive drug users and dealers out of town. He was elected mayor of this town to solve these social problems. If he can't do that, then it's time to him to step down and make room for someone who can.

ADAM ROZENHART

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

machine learning and data mining

Using Your Data to Make Good Decisions

ICT FORUM

Monday, October 27, 2003
Maple Leaf Conference Room
Lister Hall
University of Alberta
7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

The University of Alberta in collaboration with the new Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning (AICML) will host the seventh in a series of ICT Forums on Monday, October 27, 2003, at the new Maple Leaf Conference Room at Lister Hall, University of Alberta, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The phenomenal increase in the volume and complexity of data that is being generated in business, industry and science is creating an information overload crisis. Data used in business decision-making doubles or triples every year, and the already huge bioinformatics datasets are doubling in size every 12 to 18 months. It is no longer possible for humans to analyze, or even identify, all the data relevant to their undertaking, whether it be business leaders making decisions, manufacturers controlling production processes, doctors choosing appropriate treatments, or researchers investigating scientific questions. This forum, co-sponsored by Alberta Ingenuity and ICORE, will explore the current and future directions in this field of research and will be of interest to all currently involved/or interested in advanced decision making and knowledge management.

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An SU-Administration coalition on tuition can only hurt students

MIKE HUDEMA

I really can't believe what I just read. Apparently, in return for agreeing to maximum tuition increases for the next two years, the Students' Union will unite with the University and lobby for more education funding.

Did the provincial government change when I was sleeping? Uniting with the University will end over a decade of underfunding? Haven't we both been asking for more government funding this whole time? What was the University doing before, lobbying for decreased government funding?

Does anybody else find it odd that the University would force students to agree to maximum tuition increases for two years in exchange for doing something they should be doing already? Working with the University administration to lobby for more funding is a laudable goal, but it shouldn't come at this cost. If the administration, the GSA, and the Students' Union all agree that the faculties are crumbling, that students are in debt or can't even afford to be here, isn't that good enough reason to band together?

The yearly tuition campaign is the SU's biggest leverage in keeping the University accountable and in changing the views of the provincial government vis-à-vis changing the views of regular Albertans. The reason the SU staged so many events around tuition last year was not just to try to get students active, but to also increase the public's awareness of the situation.

Abandoning our public tuition campaign will take away students' most valuable tool. The off-campus media, the main vehicle in getting our message past the University's walls, focuses on the tuition decision each year. They will come out to events here and there, but each year the SU's activities surrounding the Board of Governor's tuition decision is what enables students to really get the message out. By eliminating the tuition fight, you eliminate the focal point.

The yearly tuition campaign is the SU's biggest leverage in keeping the University accountable and in changing the views of the provincial government vis-à-vis changing the views of regular Albertans.

Student governments also change from year to year. Neither Students' Council nor the GSA should be able to lock future student governments into multi-year decisions like this.

The provincial government is not going to give us more funding because we go together asking for increased funding instead of separately asking for more funding. With an election looming in the next year or so, the provincial government will be wringing its collective hands in glee that another voice of opposition will be silenced. Clearly, when it comes to tuition, the main battle is to change the minds of regular Albertans and the best way to do that is through an active media campaign around the issue. It would be great to get the University's support, but the administration should be doing it because they believe that we want to offer a high quality accessible institution and not because they want an easy ride during tuition time.

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9128 - 51 Ave.
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South Edmonton Common
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Southgate Centre
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Costco South
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AFTER HOURS

a photo feature

You've got bags under your eyes, you've been wearing the same pair of sweatpants since Monday, you've swapped your mouthwash for vanilla cappuccino and you've developed a pesky tendency to blackout due to stress—it's definitely midterm time again. And along with all those life-threatening habits you've adopted in order to maintain that four-point average, it's no longer strange for you to stick around campus long after any reasonable hour, just to study. Midterm week is one of those rare times where campus is seen at night. Maybe it doesn't seem all that different—just, you know, a bit darker, maybe somewhat colder, and a few more hobos—but Shawn Benbow has used his unique superpower of photographic perspective to capture the oft-unappreciated idiosyncrasies of midterm nightlife.

PHOTOS: SHAWN BENBOW
CAPTIONS: LEAH COLLINS

9:25 PM
CORNER OF 87

The streets are still busy with kids milling from night classes, st soaring above the intersection in all its campy musical awesc that he spotted a few blocks back. 9:25 pm and all's well.

9:48 PM
OLD ARTS BUIL

Somehow, higher learning has a bit more majesty when it's i

7 AVE AND 112 ST

udying, and booster juicing; Foreigner's "Hot Blooded" is coming from the Earl's, omocity; and a toqued Australian is raving about a naked girl with three eyes

LDING

lluminated by spotlights.

10:17 PM SAFEWALK

lo promise that their neato yellow jackets give them the superpowers to, like, catch eeding bullets with their teeth or annihilate crafty ninja assailants, but coed teams volunteer Safewalkers do plenty of do-gooding each night, providing security to udents on their treks home from campus.

uring the fall, Safewalk can be contacted between 7pm and 12:30am Monday rough Saturday and 7pm to 11pm on Sunday. Call 4-WALK ME (492-5563) if ou'd like to be escorted by a friendly pair in matching outerwear. Safewalk will go s far as 91 Street to the east (Faculté St Jean), 72 Avenue to the south, as far as the ver to the north and west, and to three blocks away from any LRT station.

9:18 PM SUB

With midterms, essays, and assignments encroaching, suddenly the campus hot-spot is the main floor of SUB. Things are quiet: the rustle of papers and the dull, white-noise hum of study questions and coffee orders float over the thick hush of tension and intense cramming. Although SUB is open for 24 hours to meet all of your studying needs, business student Jay-D McLean isn't taking any chances that the coffee shops have made a similar promise. Equipped with a coffeemaker and Tim Hortons-brand grounds, he's ready to study for tomorrow's midterm and possibly, he jokes, make a tidy profit if the Cram Dunk closes.

9:41 PM POWERPLANT

When we entered, the bouncer told us there were about seventeen people in the bar. Would these be the few lucky creatures who found themselves finished midterms on a Monday night? Or perhaps just seventeen shirkers more interested in gathering some student-priced liquid courage after giving up on some late-night lab exam? We counted eight behind the bar. Each of them had their heads in an open textbook.

10:29 PM 112 STREET

"It's hours of boredom interrupted by moments of terror," says Campus Security Services Officer Nelson of his job. At any time, campus is being patrolled by officers like Nelson looking out for the safety of those at the University. Though we have the good fortune of going to school in a relatively safe environment, crime is nevertheless a threat on campus. "Students are the least of our problems," says Officer Nelson of those occasional "moments of terror." Most of the crime, he says, arises from people who take advantage of how sheltered the university community is. But, he adds, thanks to students' increased awareness of criminal incidents through things such as the *Gateway*'s Campus Crime Beat, people are becoming less naïve and are more comfortable with contacting Campus Security for assistance.

Whenever there's an emergency at the university, Campus Security Services (or Campus 5-0) is first to respond. Security can be reached at 492-5050 (toll-free from any pay-phone) or at any emergency blue phone, and their offices are located at 11390 87 Avenue (the southwest corner of the Education Car Park).

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts and Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

The Films of Steve Sanguedolce

Metro Cinema
Thursday, 23 October

It's not often that a film can be described as "half spoof, half epic," but then Steve Sanguedolce is not exactly your average filmmaker. This filmatic one-night-stand includes two movies by the director.

One is a sixty-minute epic that stars Earl Patsko playing the director himself, in what could have been an inspiration for the weirdo hit *Adaptation*. The storyline is eerily similar to the blockbuster of more fame and revolves around Patsko as he searches for his estranged twin brother. The second film is a four-minute short on the evils of drinking and driving, which is dramatized in mime. This is definitely not your normal night at the movies.

Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair

Queen Alexandra Hall
24–26 October

Are you tired of fighting the man alone? Well, if you wander down to the Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair, you may just run into some like-minded punks with a game plan to change the world—or at least some really good advice about how to start your own world-changing 'zine.

This is year two for the extremely alternative fair, but that doesn't mean the organizers are going to start getting lazy with their success. The proceedings begin with keynote speaker, activist Jaggi Singh, who will hopefully tell the story of the 17 days he spent in an Israeli prison last January for illegally visiting the politically tumultuous West Bank and Gaza Strip. Day two features workshops on everything from Punk Rock to age-ism and day three will be a grand wrap-up.

Best of all, admission is free and so is the food all weekend. So dig out your old Ban the Bomb buttons and check out where anarchism is really going these days.

The Dears

Powerplant
Saturday, 25 October

The Dears is one of those bands that's been around forever, (read: since 1995) but are all of the sudden getting the kind of buzz usually reserved for hipsters in brown chords from England. But in this case, the somewhat loosely-affiliated collective of Montréal musicians actually seem to deserve the attention. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is the era of the music snobs, when bands can list the Smiths as their main influence and still manage to get a record deal. Check them out and you won't be disappointed.

ERIKA THORKELSON
Arts & Entertainment Housewife

Pilate make a name for themselves, work on washboard abdominals

Toronto-based Brit-pop rockers release their debut album and set out on a national Canadian tour in the hopes of spreading their unique sound and name

Pilate

with the Dears
The Powerplant
Saturday, 25 October

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"It would be kind of cool if people actually knew who we were and if when they saw the band's name they didn't think it was an exercise," laughs Ruby Bumrah, bassist to Toronto-based melancholy rockers, Pilate. Bumrah lightly bemoans the fact that the band is too often confused for infomercial queen Daisy Fuentes' favorite abdominal workout, "pilates" (pill-awtees), but hopes the strength of their debut release, *Out The Window*, and catchy hooks will soon make the band famous on their own accord.

Before the band succumbs to public opinion and trades in their instruments for legwarmers and jazzercises, they're going on their first national tour. With plenty of shows, Bumrah says the band hopes to "get people used to the name."

Pilate (pie-late) is a made up of New Zealand-born singer Toby Clark, bassist Ruby Bumrah, guitarist Chris Greenough and drummer Bill Keeley. Winners of the 2002 North By Northeast Festival for Best Unsigned Band, Pilate has gathered plenty of positive attention in the Toronto area, and has shared bills with Can-rock darlings that range from Sam Roberts to Matthew Good.

Their first full-length album has been described by many as particularly British sounding with emotional, melancholy rock songs, vocals that sound a cross between Thom Yorke and Bono's little brother. It's also an album that Bumrah notes listeners have been very appreciative of.

"There's been a lot of comments like 'it's nice to hear someone doing this for a change.' I think a lot of Canadian music has been kind of going in one direction and I guess more than anything, a lot of people are surprised that there's a Canadian band doing something different and doing something that's almost like Brit pop, which is what we've been dubbed. They're just happy to hear it from a Canadian band, and they don't have to worry about waiting for some UK band to come to town in a year."

But Bumrah explains the British sound wasn't intentional. He admits the band's influences (Smiths, Radiohead, Depeche Mode, U2) can be heard on their EP, *For All That's Given Wasted*, but asserts the band is now experimenting more. "I don't really feel [the CD] sounds more or less like anything else. We're reaching and creating our own sound a little bit more than before."

> **"I think a lot of Canadian music has been kind of going in one direction and I guess more than anything, a lot of people are surprised that there's a Canadian band doing something different and doing something that's almost like Brit pop, which is what we've been dubbed."**
>
> **RUBY BUMRAH, PILATE BASSIST**

As they begin experiencing a new level of creativity, a new album and a new tour, Pilate can't help but feel a little "caught off guard." Bumrah also interprets the band's album title *Caught by the Window* as capturing that same feeling: it's a mixture of shock and excitement.

"Everything's completely new to us. None of us have come out of a band that had label support or anything like that and all of us are experiencing new things and everything is a first time for everything," he explains. "We're being shocked and surprised by things both unpleasantly and pleasantly."

Although Bumrah reveals singer Todd Clark has been known to do a few "acrobatic kicks" onstage, he describes Pilate shows as being fairly laid-back: they put on the kind of show where the audience can sit back, listen, and appreciate, which is infinitely more enjoyable than an abdominal workout.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

PILATE AND SCIENTOLOGY
Pilate's video for "Into Your Hideout" was made using the same building models also used in John Travolta's ode to Scientology and decidedly terrible movie *Battlefield Earth*.

PILATE'S ARTISTIC BEGINNINGS
The artwork and design of Pilate's CD Caught By The Window was done by the band's guitarist, Chris Greenough. Greenough met bassist Ruby Bumrah and drummer Bill Keeley when the three of them attended the Onterio College of Art and Design prior to starting the band.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO'VE PLAYED (PONTIUS) PILATE
David Bowie (*The Last Temptation of Christ*), Iam Holm (*The Miracle Maker*), Gary Oldman (*Jesus*), Michael Palin (*Life of Brian*), Telly Savalas (*The Greatest Story Ever Told*), Rod Steiger (*Jesus of Nazareth*).

PEOPLE WHO DO PILATES
Mari Winsor, Daisy Fuentes, Jennifer Beals, Elizabeth Berkley, Danny Glover, Madonna, Vanessa Williams, Sharon Stone and everyone else with sexy, sexy abs.

Good Boy! deserves a smack on the nose

Good Boy!
Starring Liam Aiken, Matthew Broderick (voice of), Kevin Nealon, Molly Shannon
Directed By John Hoffman
MGM
www.goodboy.com
Now sucking

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

BAD DOG Get off me, you toilet-breathed dog from space.

Ever since Beethoven soiled the carpet, Benji rescued the day, and Jesus wore a cowboy hat, movies starring dogs have been boring the collective faces off audiences across North America with their unoriginal plots and truly unfunny humour. An evidently self-conscious film, *Good Boy!* employs many twists and turns in an attempt to throw the audience off of its genre's standard plot. Unfortunately, rather than making the story more interesting, the twists mostly just serve to make the movie feel like it's a half hour longer than it should be. Worse yet, they distract from the film's comedy, which is sorely lacking to begin with.

As per formula, the story begins with the kid, Owen (Liam Aiken), who adopts a mean-looking dog, Hubble, in order to save the mutt from being euthanized. The twist this time is that Hubble (voiced by Matthew Broderick) is actually an alien named Canid 3942, who was sent from Dog Star Sirius, to evaluate Earth's dogs. 3942, appalled that Earthly pups have been reduced to mere pets, reluctantly agrees to help them toward their original mission of global domination, that is until the Greater Dane (Vanessa Redgrave) arrives and orders all dogs back to Sirius. It's fortunate that the four dogs that 3942 meets apparently constitute a sufficiently thorough survey of the species for the Greater Dane, thus making this task much simpler than it might have been.

Of course, rather than re-educating the terrestrial hounds, Hubble is instead moved by the human-dog bond to befriend Owen who, due to a malfunction of Hubble's transmitter (the "woofer"), is the only human who can understand the dogs. Sadly, this change in Hubble's character happens nearly instantly and makes no sense; all it takes is the sight of other dogs chasing a ball to change him from domineering commander to cutesy, loveable pet.

Aiken does a fine job portraying Owen's loneliness and his determination to find a canine friend to remain with him, but otherwise, the human cast is entirely disposable. *Saturday Night Live* alumni Kevin Nealon and Molly Shannon have glorified cameos as Owen's mild-mannered father and self-involved mother, who exist only as a device to explain Owen's desire for a dog. The neighbourhood dog owners might as well not have appeared at all, and a pair of bullies (Hunter Elliot and Mikhael Speidel) that also suddenly drop into the picture serve merely to over-emphasize Owen's isolation and to provide mostly unfunny slapstick.

The film's humour consists of a standard array of stale-at-best dog jokes, including some about dogs drinking from the toilet bowl and having their poop picked up by humans. There's also a long string of fart jokes and other assorted crude humour, the most absurd of which are a gratuitous Uranus joke that is even less funny than typical Uranus jokes, and an unfunny, inappropriate "balls" joke.

The movie isn't terrible—its flaws will undoubtedly go unnoticed by the kids—but the half-hearted jokes and boring final third will transcend the boundaries of age to make any movie-going fan weary. *Good Boy!* is ultimately a doubly uncomfortable creation: an emotional film that's not touching, and a comedy that's not funny.

Inferno is terrifying for the wrong reasons

Halloween:Inferno
Starring Des Shaw, Trish MacDonald, Lee Conrad
Directed by TJ Shaw
24–27 October

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Putting together a film that's terrifying enough to give children bed-soiling nightmares, make teenage girls shriek, and cause folks in the geriatric ward to suffer heart failure isn't easy to do. What makes something scary to any given person is obviously subjective, and it's getting progressively more difficult to shock today's audiences, long since desensitized by years of overexposure to blood and guts.

And of course, trying to make an effective horror film on a shoestring, independent-film budget only adds yet another layer to the challenge. Typically, filmmakers who try to do low-cost horror can either do minimalist, psychological productions a lá *The Blair Witch Project* or to go 180 degrees in the other direction and make campy, exaggerated B-style movies with hammy acting and over-the-top blood and guts. Sadly, *Halloween: Inferno* chooses to do neither and the result is a painful, often unintentionally comic attempt at a fan-fiction version of the classic *Halloween* series of films.

The film feels like it wants to be a Hollywood-style slasher flick with actors that are trying desperately to pull off a seriously frightening production; however it lacks all of the slick production values that make major horrors work. The poor lighting, lousy sets and shoddy editing can be forgiven as victims of a low budget, but the narrative is too bad to be forgiven. The film never escapes from the standard kill-rinse-repeat formula of horror, but doesn't have the acting, story, or saving big budget to make it watchable.

The story revolves around David Loomis, the son of psychiatrist Sam Loomis, who evidently studied psycho killer Michael Myers before he was gruesomely murdered, and Jennifer Sorenson, the daughter of Michael Myers. Sorenson is the unfortunate offspring of an "underground druid cult" who was conceived as an intended sacrifice to some kind of evil lord. There really is no point in revealing much more about the plot, since the film doesn't bother to, either, but what follows includes clones, David escaping from handcuffs twice, random people who work for the government agency getting killed, and a weird needle thing that leads to an epileptic-seizure-type death that is one of the most unintentionally hilarious death sequences ever devised.

This movie could probably serve as a decent framework for a Hollywood slasher flick, if the violence and script got a slick treatment. But as it stands, the "gore" looks more like the actors proving they know how to use fake blood, the script uses swearing to prove how tough and mean everyone is and the only joy that can be found is in recognizing some of the local settings this "film" was shot in.

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Local band celebrates new CD in high art fashion

Screwtape Lewis
with guests
Friday, 24 October
Seedy's

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

From decadent displays in high-fashion store windows to haphazard graffiti on the side of downtown hobo shelters, to the confusing modern sculptures fashioned from used toothpaste in a gallery, art surrounds us everywhere we go. Many modern bands only draw inspiration from the harmonies that move them, but for local "art-rock" band Screwtape Lewis, all forms of art are treated equally as musical muses.

"I like to think one of the reasons why our sound is a little more fresh than the other stuff out there is because our influences come from sources other than Metallica, Pearl Jam and the third generation of grunge that we are hear these days," remarks Screwtape Lewis front man, Randle Bailer. "Some of my influences are musical, but some of them are film makers or fine artists. I think there are philosophical things you can take from an artist and apply to music in order to come up with a very interesting result."

A high school sculpture instructor by day, Bailer says he has drawn on an array of different art forms in an attempt to make the band an entire thematic package, which carries a unified impression through their lyrics, sound, look and stage presence. He describes their new album as "Sex Pistols meets Devo" and says he hopes to bring the music to life with the intricate details they carry into their live performances.

Bailer produced five short independent films in which different images that conflict and unite are displayed on

FREAKY A sample of Bailer's visual art.

two different screens simultaneously. He now uses the films to make their live shows "fell like being inside an art installation."

"The films were loosely based on a lot of the musical themes that I write about and ties into the lyrical ideas and concepts the bands work with," Bailer explains. "I turned that into two banks of 14 TVs, and from there I built a large set with angel wings that represent the idea of deifying media."

While the spectacle is undeniably original for the hipster scene in Edmonton, Bailer admits not everyone is receptive to the abstract ways his band delivers their music. "I find it's hit and miss, and that's just a natural progression for a new band: we are fleshing out our audience. Some people come out and just don't get it. They don't understand what's going on and why all these different things are there," he notes. "But you do get people coming out that are really excited and pleasantly surprised when they come to some little dinky bar and get this whole creative package."

Bailer is a fan of all types of art and his imaginative innovations show through as much in the band's synthy experimental recordings as it does on stage: he's an artist first and an entertainer second. "I just like to stay creative in whatever way I can," he remarks. "Being in a band is a much more public way to do art than most mediums allow. It's fun to feel other peoples' energy in the room with you and it's so immediate to throw music out and have people respond to it. With painting, everything is done in isolation, which can be quite peaceful, but I like the extremes of both of the worlds."

Whether Edmonton is ready to embrace Screwtape Lewis' attempts to bring the art back into music doesn't seem to matter much to Bailer. The band will be celebrating the release of their second full-length album, *Better Stronger Faster*, this Friday and you can be sure all the essentials of a full art gala will be in tow.

Runaway courtroom hit

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CANDACE STEVENS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Lawyers in three-piece suits that fight cheap toupee-wearing men over faulty insurance claims in most real-life courtrooms don't exactly make for heart-stopping melodrama. If you're going to create an amazing courtroom thriller you need to give the audience a good guy; someone who still has morals, ideals, and who's preferably a lawyer who still believes in justice and changing the world. Then you add a lethal dose of intelligence, manipulation and corruption to oppose him. Or, in this case, just take a John Grisham novel and make a movie out of it. The formula is guaranteed.

Runaway Jury looks at the dark and ugly world of jury tampering within a case where Wendall Rohr (Dustin Hoffman) represents a widow whose husband is brutally murdered at the hands of a crazed gunman. Like every criminal, the killer was easily able to pick up the newest semi-automatic weapon from his friendly, neighborhood black-market guns dealer.

The widow sues the gun company for producing a weapon that is obviously targeted to criminals, but the defendants simply respond by buying themselves an intimidating legal team. They also buy a puppeteer for that legal team: jury consultant Rankin Fitch (Gene Hackman). He pulls the legal strings from behind the bench, guarantees his client their verdict, and runs a Big-Brother-esque underground surveillance team that rivals the most extravagant James Bond technology lab. Every trial has a jury, and every jury member has a deep dark secret. Finding it is the key to stealing their vote because, as the movie tells us, "trials are too important to be decided by juries."

Screenwriters Brian Koppelman, David Levien, Rick Cleveland and Matthew Chapman changed the plot from the original Grisham story, which centered on tobacco lawsuit settlements, to a suit against a gun manufacturer. The tobacco lawsuits are no longer a hot topic since big wins against tobacco companies have already been done in other movies like *The Insider*.

The legal argument of gun case itself is not very convincing. This is not a weakness that a courtroom drama can usually get away with, but *Runaway Jury* makes the secret war between good and evil that takes place out of the courtroom work, mostly on the strength of its talented cast.

Through the building tension between the opposing sides, Hackman (*Unforgiven, The Firm*) and Hoffman (*The Graduate, Rain Man*) put on a great showdown, but Hackman eventually emerges as the star. He plays a wonderfully wicked villain; he's cold and calculating, with shark-like aggression. In one scene, the two face off in the courthouse washroom, where Rohr challenges Fitch's moral accountability. Hackman responds, "you may be right, but the thing of it is, I don't give a shit. I'm in it to win: everything else is coloured bubbles." Hackman's highly-charged scenes are thrilling and his eyes seem to pierce right through the movie screen, sending chills up and down each spine watching.

Rachel Weisz (*About a Boy, Enemy at the Gates*) surprisingly comes up as another strong player in this battle of Hollywood big boys. She plays Marlee, who is the most sweet and charming, yet tough-as-nails bitch you can imagine. She has scenes that are all over the emotional map, showcasing her wide-spread talent.

With a talented cast and a fantastic plot adaptation, *Runaway Jury* succeeds in bringing intelligent drama back to the big screen. Courtroom drama may have been done before, but rarely has it been this good.

COURT SIDE Runaway Jury pulls off a great courtroom drama.

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Clint Eastwood makes mystical movie

Old-timey gunslinger shines in his more tender directorial role

Mystic River
Directed by Clint Eastwood
Staring: Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburn, Marcia Gay Harden and Laura Linney

DAN KASZOR
Production Editor

CAN'T TOUCH THIS Violence only begets violence, kids.

He's the man with no name, the gun-antihero cutting swaths of violence across the old West: he's '70s icon, Clint Eastwood.

After Eastwood's characteristic gruff, hitman delivery made him an action legend, he took up directing and produced a few genre hits and a more than a few flops before his startling anti-violence opus *Unforgiven*. Playing with his image as a ruthless gunfighter, he captured the essence of the destructive and complicated nature of violence and revenge.

Although he played essentially the same character as in his spaghetti western glory days, the emotional results were opposite. Violence was no longer an easy means to an end, revenge was not satisfying, and there was no glory in death. In his latest directorial effort, *Mystic River*, Eastwood follows the themes that he set in motion with *Unforgiven* and brings them to a more realistic and human setting.

Mystic River chronicles the lives of three men from an urban neighborhood in Boston. As children they were friends, but tragedy scared one of them for life and broke the other friends apart until they are forced to reunite as middle-aged men.

Sean Penn plays a retired thug who has made his way as a legitimate businessman. Tim Robbins is a shattered man who's haunted by his past and Kevin Bacon is a cop whose personal life is falling apart around him. They're drawn back together when one character's daughter is brutally slain after a Saturday night out on the town.

Each of these performances is stellar, but Sean Penn's was distinctively notable, as he manages to be a local businessman, a quasi mob boss, a street thug, a caring father and a decent human being all at the same time and in an equally convincing manner. In one especially touching scene, Penn explains he simply can't cry because he's being watched and he feels he's a pillar of the community.

The entirety of the film was shot on location, and the attention to real-life details is effective in invoking the feel of urban Boston. From the dripping little hole-in-the-ground bars to the architecture, everything a realistic feel. This, paired with excellent cinematography makes the movie a beautiful visceral experience.

Like *Unforgiven*, the core of the movie is Eastwood's message against violence, but unlike *Unforgiven*, which addressed his character in spaghetti westerns, *Mystic River* seems to reference his character of Dirty Harry. Harry was a cop who didn't follow the rules, extacting his own forms of brutal vengeance on the perpetrators that escaped the law. Where Harry's message of retribution was almost fascist, a mellowed pacifism runs through *Mystic River*. Violence may beget violence here, but it never fixes anything. More hurt doesn't undo the traumas and horrors of the past or even really punish those who cause the pain; it just causes more hurt.

The film isn't perfect. The children who play the younger versions of Penn, Robbins and Bacon were uniformly stiff and self-aware. At some points in the film Eastwood was painfully unsubtle, such as in an early scene where Tim Robbins in reminded of his childhood. The ending also seems to go on a tad too long, and drags on even after the action of the film has been resolved.

Despite its fairly dark outlook, *Mystic River* delivers layered characters and a fully-realized filmic world. On top of that it, also shows Clint Eastwood's development as a filmmaker, from violent pulp in the seventies to the thoughtful and complicated views of his current work. While it isn't a perfect movie, it is one of the best films released so far this year, and well worth seeing.

The Chemical Brothers
Singles '93–'03
Astralwerks
www.chemicalbrothers

ALEX MUIR
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This collection compiles many of the singles throughout the illustrious career of British big beat purveyors the Chemical Brothers. The sirens and other primitive synth noises serve as an interesting documentation of the British hardcore scene that flourished in the early '90s. The most timeless of the collection, "Leave Home," is an early example of the Brothers' reliance on funky guitar samples, while other tracks, such as "Setting Sun," show the later psychotic psychedelia with dizzying distorted guitar lines and heavy two beat drum break.

It's just unfortunate is that this retrospective is restricted to singles, as non-singles such as "Dig Your Own Hole" and "Under the Influence" deserve a place more than many of the less inspired tracks on the back-end of the album.

Still, this collection will surely remind some of just what the fuss was about back in 1997, when electronica threatened to take the mainstream.

The Raveonettes
Chain Gang of Love
Columbia
www.theraveonettes.com

JORDAN COOK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hailing from the corner of the world that brought you The Hives, Soundtrack of our Lives, and Abba, The Raveonettes are hoping to emulate the same success in North America as their fellow Scandinavians. With their first full-length album, *Chain Gang of Love*, they seem on the brink of that success.

The Raveonettes, comprised of Sune Rose Wagner (guitar, vocals) and Sharin Foo (bass, vocals), formed in Copenhagen due to a mutual disenchantment with the Danish music scene and set out from the beginning to create their own unique style of garage-rock. On this release they manage diversity in sound and depth of songwriting that carries them above other bands in the hipster genre.

The Danish duo combines pop melodies, catchy guitar hooks, and simple harmonies under a wall of static to create their own individual lo-fi sound. Displaying a variety of influences, including '50s and '60s pop, '80s new-wave, and even country, the Raveonettes have made an album that is ambitious, dynamic, and extremely listenable.

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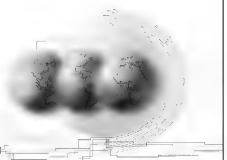

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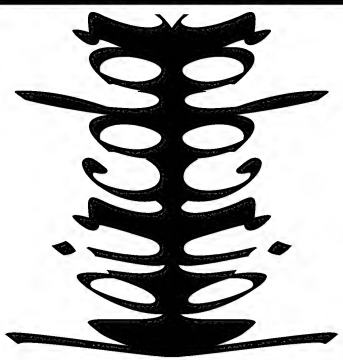

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Film remake massacres the terror and style of original film

Classic murderous psychopath Leatherface is back, but not scary in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre
Starring Jessica Biel, Eric Balfour and Jonathan Tucker and R. Lee Ermey
Directed By my mom
www.texaschainsawmovie.com

RICK HUNTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If some guy broke into your house, held a gun to your head and made you sum up the plot of Marcus Nispels' 2003 remake of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, it'd probably go like this: "there's this psychotically deranged freak of nature with a chainsaw and he massacres a bunch of people for no apparent reason. Also, please don't fucking shoot me!"

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre is somewhat based on the story of real-life psycho Ed Gein. An eccentric Wisconsin farmer, Gein was the prime suspect in the disappearence of a local shop clerk back in 1957.

When the police went and checked out his farmhouse, they had quite a gruesome surprise: gutted bodies hanging from hooks, a fridge full of organs, a belt made of nipples and a "woman suit" made entirely of skin. If any of these elements sound familiar, it's because Gein's life is no stranger to celluloid; many other infamous movie characters—from Buffalo Bill in *Silence of the Lambs* to Norman Bates from *Psycho*—have been based on this terrifyingly true story.

In *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* the classic character takes the form of Leatherface, a mysterious psychopath who's murderous ways are only explained as being a result of his troubled childhood where he was ostracized for having a skin condition. To compensate for his unhappiness, Leatherface murders people with a chainsaw and sometimes cuts off their skin and wears it. Unfortunately, some hippies meet up with Leatherface and his creepy family crew and a blood bath ensues.

With such a basic plot idea, only compelling characters would be enough to make a film like this interesting; however, the remake fails to flesh out engaging portraits of the victims. None of the characters develop passed the point of being mindless shrieking bodies. They don't say witty things, nor do they do anything cool except die a lot.

Content-wise, both the original film and this remake are almost identical, but stylistically Hooper's 1974 version drastically changed the horror genre, while Marcus Nispel's 2003 version will leave you bored and a little disgusted. What made the original so profound was its audacity and inventive use of the low-budge to terrorize audiences in a way they'd never previously experienced.

The combination of audio and visual absurdity of the original put the audience into a state of terror and the dismal production values only made it seem more real. Nispel's remake often feels over lit with its Hollywood style settings, whereas the original succeeded for just the opposite reasons.

Occasionally, when Leatherface is running around with his chainsaw, Nispel manages to recreate some of the insanity from the original, but more often than not he tries to remake it by today's standards, which are simply too polished to give the realistic terror in the original.

With perhaps the exception of *The Blair Witch Project*, too many horror movies these days are sickeningly black-comedy-I-Know-What-You-Did-Last-Halloween permutations, and contain none of that old school terror that classics like the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *The Exorcist*, or *Night of the Living Dead* have.

This latest remake definitely holds with the current mould. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* leaves a lot to be desired, and is not worth the fifteen bucks they charge to go see a film these days. Instead, go rent the original, turn the lights down low, and remember the bygone days when serial killers could artfully communicate through their chainsaws and be terrifying without all the blinding lights and production. Horror was scarier when it wasn't so polished and actually seemed real.

AHHH! Please don't kill me, psycho.

Year of The Rabbit
Self-titled
Warner
www.yearoftherabbit.net

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Ken Andrews originally gained notoriety for his whimsical synth arrangements and mysteriously mechanical vocals in the '90s with his first band Failure. On this, his latest pesudo-solo effort, the same zig-zagging melodies and flawless production values that made him a cult hit ring as loud as ever.

Bands as big as A Perfect Circle have covered Andrews' songs and with the strength of this record he looks poised to contend his name as one of the finest electronic-rock composers in America. The songs are impeccably tight, unpredictably catchy, methodical and even at times mesmerizing with their blend of strange blips and quirks. Andrews has once again created a moody soudscape that's sure to please old fans and earn him plenty of new ones.

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THE PEP RALLY

Soccer

Der **Pandas** (6-2-3) once again take the field to defend the honour of the University soccer program, as, in a bizarre twist, they play both at home *and* away this weekend. First up they take on the heavily made-up, old and wrinkly Regina Cougars (1-10-2) Thursday at 4pm. Friday they journey eastward to make the University of Saskatchewan Huskies (2-7-2) heel at noon, and then teach them to play dead Saturday at noon at Foote Field.

The **Bears** (6-2-2), on the other hand, skip the trip to Regina and just play a home-and-home with the Huskies (3-6-1). You can catch them scooping up crap and picking up wins Friday at 2:15pm in Saskatchewan, then back at Foote Field Sunday at 2:15pm.

Hockey

I hope you're sitting down while you're reading this, because the 2002-2003 CIS Champion **Pandas** are finally back in action. Because of the inability of our sports teams to play anybody but Saskatchewan teams this weekend, they also meet the Huskies, who will be rolling over starting at 7pm in Clare Drake both Friday and Saturday. In case it's not enough to see them in action, on Friday they will be raising they're brand new, shiny CIS Championship banner so it can wave tauntingly at all the poor opposing teams who dare tread onto our ice.

Meanwhile, those rebels of the athletics department the **Bears** (4-0-0) travel down to Lethbridge this weekend to bag themselves some nice big Pronghorns (1-1-2). Both games are at 7pm in the brown grass capital of Alberta, and unfortunately there is no radio, so sadly you'll just have to imagine that you're hearing them win both games.

Football

Once again, those glorious gamers of the gridiron, the **Bears** (4-3), are in action this weekend. Keeping with tradition, they meet the cougar-envious University of Regina Rams (3-4-1) at 2pm in Regina. With a win or overtime loss, most likely a win, the Bears will clinch a playoff berth for the first time since the majority of you were in diapers suckling from your mother's teat. In case you don't feel like journeying to the land of milk and cattle, you can catch them starting at 1:45pm on **CJSR FM88** as called by 1-900 number certified, silky-voiced Bob Stauffer and Kevin "I work for Global TV" Karius.

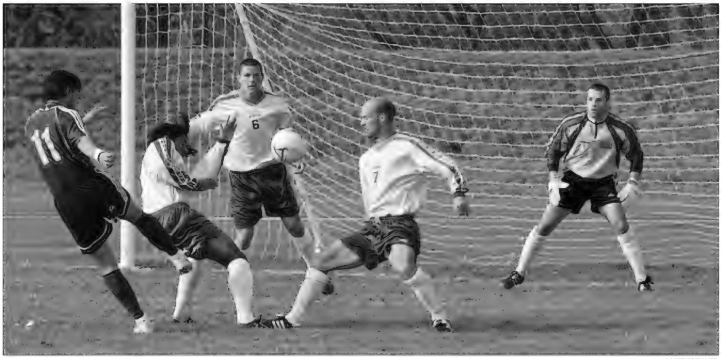
Basketball

If you happen to walking past the main gym this weekend and hear bouncing balls, the swish of nets and the squeak of shoes, don't run the other away, walk inside and you'll catch the TELUS Mobility Pandas Hoopfest. Because the teams for this tournament were choosen solely on the hilarity of their names, our **Pandas** meet the Bishop's "Gaiters" Friday at 8pm, the Queen's "Golden Gaels" Saturday at 8pm and the deadly Concordia "Stingers" on Sunday at 2pm. With names like these, we'd better win.

The Flames suck, just like Joel Chury

Fresh off the destruction of both the hapless Buffalo Sabres and the out-gunned Colorado Avalanche (although they may have played the Blues in there somewhere) my unstoppable Oilers, led by Norris candidate Steve Staios, are ready to avenge the 1–0 abomination of a hockey game that was their loss to Calgary. I think we can all agree, anyone that is a Flames fan must be some sort of accident of birth that deserves to be ridiculed and beaten mercilessly until he admits the Oilers dominance. Up yours Chury, you're going to be choking on your Flames' loss come Monday.

"SEXY" DAVE BERRY
Sports Propagandist



MATT FREHNER

UNINTENTIONAL HEADER Golden Bears striker Brett Bachelu kicks the ball through two Victoria Vike defenders, who deflected the ball wide.

Last weekend for soccer action at Foote

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Counting down to the end of the season, the magic numbers for the Bears and Pandas soccer teams are three and four, respectively. With an upcoming home-and-home series with Saskatchewan, the Bears need a win to snag the necessary three points in order to clinch their playoff spot, whereas the Pandas will need a win and a tie.

With an extra bus ride to Regina, the Pandas will have three games this weekend in order to attain their four points. "It's always a long trip, not only in going to Regina, but the time it takes, as it's an eight- to nine-hour bus ride," said Pandas head coach Kelly Vandergrift. "But it's kind of a nice break in terms of our travel, because we get the bus to ourselves, and get to watch the movies that we want to watch, and the girls get to bond while not worrying about anything else."

Entering only their third season in the Canada West, the Regina Cougars women's soccer team will wear out the Pandas more through travel distance than they probably will on the pitch. In their last meeting, the Pandas annihilated the Cougars 7–0. After Regina mails in the three points, the Pandas will join up with their Bear counterparts to play two games against the Huskies, concluding with the last games of the regular season being played at Foote Field on Sunday.

The Bears would like to come back to Foote already having clinched their playoff spot. "We'd like to make sure we get those three points in our next outing," said Bears head coach Len Vickery. "Because the positive aspect of last weekend's play was the performance was good, and we created several good quality scoring opportunities." Despite the quality of the opportunities, the Bears were only able to score one goal over last weekend in the 1–1 draw against UBC, and were shut out by Victoria in a 1–0 loss.

Bouncing back from last weekend's results is a must for the Bears who have consistently stayed near the top of the league tables all season. "We know we are a good team," said Vickery. "We collectively have to take the next big step forward, [which will entail] putting forth that extra little effort, finishing on those scoring opportunites, and maintaining our discipline."

After this weekend, the Bears and Pandas should be riding different buses yet again, as the Canada West women's soccer championship will be held in Lethbridge, while the men will head to Saskatchewan for their championship. The home season will end at the friendly confines of Foote Field this Sunday, with the Pandas beginning at noon, and the Bears at 2:15pm.

Bears continue dominance over hockey Dinos

GEOFF WOADE
Sports Staff

The Golden Bears downright own the Calgary Dinos. After a home-and-home weekend series, the Bears hockey team stretched their undefeated streak over the Dinos to thirty-three straight games (29-0-4) with a 2–1 road win in Calgary's Olympic-sized ice at Father David Bauer arena on Friday night and 6–2 pummeling the next night at Clare Drake.

Opening the season with four straight wins, including a sweep of the Regina Cougars on Thanksgiving weekend, the Bears are currently the top-ranked team in the CIS, as voted on by the CIS Men's Ice Hockey Top Ten Committee this week.

The second win came in front of a large crowd which included many Bears hockey alumni, as the team was holding its alumni weekend. "We were playing in front of a lot of alumni tonight, so we wanted to come out and play hard," said Bears tough-guy forward Brian Ballman after the game Saturday.

Ballman and rookie forward Ben Thomson were able to spark their teammates with physical play resulting in two skirmishes, giving the fans something to cheer about when the momentum threatened to go to Calgary in the third period. Jumping to goaltender Dustin Schwartz's defense, Ballman threw down Dino forward Wesley Reid in a scrum behind the Bears net. Despite the interference that Reid attempted on Schwartz, Ballman was the only one to go to the box. "I gotta be more disciplined, I can't do that late in the game," said a humble Ballman. "I thought it was going to be an equaled-out call, but it went the wrong way. But luckily our guys killed the penalty off, we came back with a goal right after."

Thomson was able to draw a powerplay for the Bears after being a thorn in the side of the Dino defense and Calgary goaltender Aaron Baker. Buzzing around the net all night long, the pesky Thomson drew the ire of Baker and a stick to the face from the goalie, starting the night's second scrum. "[Ben] plays hard, and plays with a lot of emotion, and that's what we want from him for sure," said Bears head coach Rob Daum. "When you have players that play that way, they tend to get under the skin of the opposition."

The ensuing powerplay resulted in a Dinos shorthanded goal, but the Bears got the last laugh in the final minute of the game with a goal from forward Brent Robertson. Thomson, and Ballman each added an assist, while centre Brad Tutschek scored a goal and notched two assists, leading the night's scoring.

The Bears look to continue the win streak this weekend while visiting their other southern rivals, the Lethbridge Pronghorns. The two-game series begins Friday night at 7pm at Lethbridge's Nicholas Sheran Arena. Meanwhile, here at Clare Drake Arena, the Pandas open their season with two games against the Saskatchewan Huskies, both at 7pm on Friday and Saturday. Friday's pre-game ceremonies will include the raising of the Women's CIS Championship banner from the 2002-03 season.

NICK WIEBE

SNAP SHOT Bears forward Kevin Marsh's shot from the wing is stopped by Dino Aaron Baker.

Wind a factor in football Bears loss

BRYAN LEE
Sports Staff

Although WWW typically stands for World Wide Web, it had a different meaning for the Bears football team this weekend. Unfortunately, none of those w's stood for wins.

Rather, windy, wacky and wily are accurate descriptions of the 18–16 road loss to the undefeated Saskatchewan Huskies (8-0). Wind was the dominant factor, particularly in the first half. With the wind at their back, Alberta jumped out to a 16–0 lead on a bootleg touchdown run by quarterback Darryl Salmon, a touchdown reception from wide-receiver Andrew Ford, and a safety. Without the wind though, the offence was anemic in the second quarter, in which the Huskies answered back with ten points.

The game also featured its fair share of oddities. After the safety, Bears head coach Jerry Friesen chose the unusual option to kick the ball, rather than to receive.

"Our previous kickoffs had been to the goal line, so we were trying to pin them deep again. Unfortunately [kicker Mark] Wojocichowsky didn't get the ball that far that time. However, our defence was playing great at that moment," Friesen explained. Although the Huskies returned the ball to their 50-yard line, they turned it over two plays later on a fumble recovery by defensive back Neil Ternovatsky.

The Bears offence continued to struggle the rest of the game, and the fact that Salmon was knocked out with a bruised shoulder in the fourth quarter didn't help. The team turned to backup pivot Cam Linke, who was effective during the team's last-ditch 53-yard drive after they trailed 18–16.

Trailing by two, in the dying moments of the fourth quarter Alberta moved to the Saskatchewan 22-yard line, leading to another puzzling decision. On a third down with one yard to go, the Bears opted to go for it rather than try a field goal kick into the wind. They were stuffed and the Huskies remained undefeated.

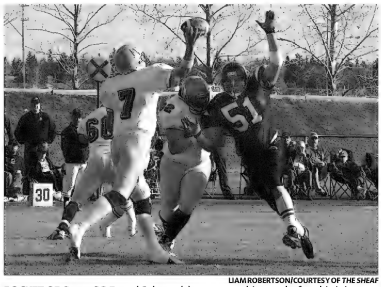
"We didn't execute as well as we wanted. We had opportunities to put the game away, but we didn't," a disappointed Friesen said.

The Bears (4-3) remain in second place in the Canada West, tied with Simon Fraser and Calgary. Hot on their heels are the Regina Rams (3-4), who the Bears will play in Regina on Saturday. Only three of these four will qualify for the playoffs along with Saskatchewan.

If the Rams win, they are in because one of their losses was in overtime. The fact that SFU and Calgary play each other works to the favour of the Bears, who can only miss out if that contest is decided in overtime, not in regulation.

But that luck comes at a time when the Bears need it most, as the questionable status of whether Salmon will start this weekend will cause the Bears to have to work with two game strategies before the game begins. "Darryl we are evaluating on a day-to-day basis. Losing him would mean you take a really good athlete off the field, not that our other quarterbacks aren't solid athletes," Friesen explained. "We have good running backs and receivers, so we'll need to distribute the ball more versus Regina."

Though the last game of the regular season will be played on the road, fans can follow the game on CJSR FM88. Bob Stauffer will be calling plays along with colourman Kevin Karius from the confines of Taylor Field, with pregame show beginning at 1:45pm, and kickoff at 2pm.



LIAM ROBERTSON/COURTESY OF *THE SHEAF*

POCKET QB Bears QB Darryl Salmon (7) attempts this pass before his injury.

Pandas host Hoopfest

GEOFF WOADE
Sports Staff

The Main Gym will be the site for yet another venue this weekend, as the Pandas get set to host the annual Telus Mobility Hoopfest basketball tournament. Fresh off of their trip to Manitoba to compete in the annual Bison Invitational Tournament, the Pandas host their last competition of the preseason. Coming to town will be the Calgary Dinos, Concordia Stingers, Saskatchewan Huskies, Queen's Golden Gaels, and the Bishop's Gaiters.

"It's really our last few games before we do start league play," said Pandas head coach Trix Baker. "We're just trying to refine our offense, as we've switched up our offense this year. Just get people playing together."

Baker's bunch are looking at their three games against non-conference teams (Concordia, Queen's and Bishop's) as their last warmup before the season begins. "It's just three more games with refs," said Baker of this exhibition opportunity. "We have a lot of new faces, a lot of people that aren't used to eachother yet."

From last year's lineup, the Pandas will have two of their five starters, and another starter from two seasons ago. The three starters returning are point guard Cristi Allen, post Karen Lodge, and shooting guard Diane Smith (who was injured last season with a torn ACL). "But we've got nine returning bodies, so we haven't really determined yet who our starters are," added Baker. "We're kind of mixing people up a bit, and trying out different combinations. Again, this is a weekend for testing that."

"I expect us to take one more step this weekend," commented guard Diane Smith. "Every weekend we look to get better, as that's our goal, to become the best team that we can." Smith, who's entering her fifth and final year of eligibility, looks forward to seeing her updated team gel for the upcoming season. "Our new recruits and transfers bring a lot of talent [to the team]," added Smith. "We're learning how to put it all together now, and I'd expect us to learn how to play to our strengths."

On Friday, the Pandas open up against the Gaiters (who were also at the Manitoba tournament last weekend but didn't play the Pandas) in the Main Gym at 8pm. Saturday night's 8pm matchup against the Golden Gaels should be the highlight of the weekend, as the Queen's crew was good enough to get to the nationals last season. Closing out the weekend festivities, the Pandas will play a matinee game against Concordia.

Aafter this weekend's tourney, the Pandas will get a weekend off before their Canada West season begins on 7 November at home against Regina.

FILE PHOTO: LAUREN JENNINGS

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Thanks for the memories, Stu Hart

ADAM ROZENHART
Managing Editor

"I don't think any of us will ever forget the kitschy fun of Stampede Wrestling. And if this grassroots sparring league can evoke this sort of nostalgia in me, imagine how the death of its founder, Stu Hart, has affected millions of wrestling fans all across North America."

I remember when my little brother used to let me piledrive him. We'd be watching TV, bored out of our minds on a lazy Sunday afternoon, and Stampede Wrestling—a weekend favourite with my brothers and I—would come on. We'd observe the tactics, and get involved in the simplistic storylines of who was good and who was bad, and then I'd piledrive my little brother, proving that I was, and likely still am, nothing more than an abusive shit-disturber.

Despite the bumps and bruises obtained emulating the tights-sporting becostumed menaces we watched on TV, I don't think any of us will ever forget the kitschy fun of Stampede Wrestling. And if this grassroots sparring league can evoke this sort of nostalgia in me, imagine how the death of its founder, Stu Hart, has affected millions of wrestling fans all across North America.

Canadian wrestling's founding father passed away last week at the age of 88. He leaves behind him a legacy in the form of wrestler after wrestler who visited his Calgary home to train in the "dungeon," a wrestling ring in the Harts' basement. Of course, his well-known sons and the circumstances surrounding Brett Hart's figurative demise—and Owen Hart's literal one—might be what people remember most about Stu Hart. Others may recall his enthusiasm and his kindness. In last Thursday's *Globe and Mail*, Premier Ralph Klein said that Stu Hart was the personification of everything it means to be Calgarian and an Albertan: he was friendly, compassionate, energetic, and down-to-earth.

I remember Stu Hart as something entirely different. He was, somewhat indirectly, responsible for my ability to piledrive—and to some extent, to body slam—my little brother. I remember it like it was yesterday: watching the likes of the Hitman, the Blue Blazer, and the British Bulldog, my family learned some valuable lessons. We learned that, despite its over-the-top moves and repeated reminders from our parents that the whole thing was staged, wrestling was something we could share. I was never allowed near my brother's toys—they were his and there was no arguing with him—but the sight of the squared circle caused both of us to forget about who stole whose Bumblebee Transformer and focus on more important things: the vitriol being spewed from the mouths of defeated grapplers.

Stampede wrestling allowed us to forget about the greater worries of life. Gone were the intrusive thoughts of where I'd buried that GI Joe in the backyard. Forgotten were the petty spats and indifferences between us. We had bigger fish to fry; we were learning new moves, and the petty spats and indifferences could be taken up later, after a brief practice round following that last sound of the bell on TV.

But more than a source of emulation, Stampede Wrestling—and as we grew older the WWF (now WWE)—were a source of bonding. Sure, my brothers and I learned how to pound the shit out of each other, and it seemed like every ten minutes a loud crash would be followed by the pleas of my mother to, for the love of god, "keep it down up there." But wrestling was a source of friendship with us. In very much the same way that puppies play fight, my brothers and I flying-elbow-dropped each other until we, and our parents, were red in the face.

Now, many years later, we look back on those times and laugh. "Remember when I gave you that nosebleed?" I'll ask my brother. "Yeah, and then I leg-dropped your ass." Ah, good times. Times that could not have been had without the vision, compassion and wherewithal of one of Alberta's greatest celebrities.

Stu Hart's gone to that big wrestling ring in the sky, but his legacy will forever be remembered down here.

STU HART A wrestling legend.

Aaron Boone: humanity's saviour

Third-baseman's series-winning homer may have prevented armageddon

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Who were we kidding folks? Who were *we* to think that we would be the lucky generation that would get to either see the Chicago Cubs win their first pennant since 1945 or their first World Series since 1908? Did we actually believe we would get to see the Boston Red Sox break the curse of the Bambino that has stretched since the club traded him to the Yankees after the 1918 season?

But complain as we will, we should thank the Yankees and Marlins for preventing the apocalypse and the subsequent end of humanity as we know it. For as all we know, a Red Sox/Cubs World Series would clearly result in either all the oceans turning to blood, Kim Jong Il over-anxiously starting WWIII, or at the very least, as Dr Stephen Hawking once suggested (although not in the context of baseball), time would stop and start going again in the opposite direction the moment the two teams took the field.

Cubs fans are likely going to lay blame on their peer Steve Bartman, who caught a foul ball that flew towards him in the stands that Cubs outfielder Moises Alou could've grabbed to end an important inning in game six. And while Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire was blaming the Yankees for having an extra long rendition of "America the Beautiful" sang during the seventh inning stretch, which he claimed threw off his pitcher's rhythm due to the stall, I blame baseball's three generation spanning Boone family.

I've never really liked the Boones. This isn't just because third baseman Aaron Boone hit the game winning homerun to put the Yanks in the championship again. My disdain for all that is Boone, began much earlier than that.

But complain as we will, we should thank the Yankees and Marlins for preventing the apocalypse and the subsequent end of humanity as we know it.

In 1991, when I was working as a batboy for the Calgary Cannons AAA club, the eldest of the third Boone generation, Brett, was the team's second baseman. At the beginning of the year, he bitched and moaned in interviews about how he was too talented to be playing in the minor leagues. Then once during a home stand against the Tacoma Tigers, I was able to meet two more members of the Boone family. Brett's father Bob, a former major league catcher, was managing the Tigers and brought his youngest son Matthew (who incidentally was my age at the time).

Because of our age proximity, Bob stuck me with Matthew to keep him company during batting practice. Matt pulled a Brett, and bitched and moaned about how much he hated being in Calgary, how he wished that he could just go back to the hotel room to play his Sega Genesis, and had the nerve to comment, "Why do you Canadians pay to watch baseball players when none of you seem to know how to play the sport?"

He went on to prove our futility to me by holding a mock home-run derby near the left field wall using a tennis ball and a Fungo (thin practice bat used by coaches to hit ground balls). The game consisted of how many times each of us could hit the tennis ball over the giant wall from about 30 feet out. He seemed to get the hang of it a lot faster than I did, and crushed one over the wall, which proceeded to hit the Cannons' general manager Gary Arthur, who was walking behind it. Upon retrieving the ball, Gary was already fuming, and Matthew proceeded to throw the blame on me before sauntering into his father's team's locker room.

So now, middle son Aaron's game-winning home run in game seven, allowed the Yankees to beat the Red Sox for the one-millionth time. I knew right then, that there was a Boone-shot to left field that wasn't going to be blamed on anyone else, except perhaps the ghost of Babe Ruth. But I suppose I can't stay mad at Aaron for his heroics; after all, he had probably just saved the planet from certain doom.

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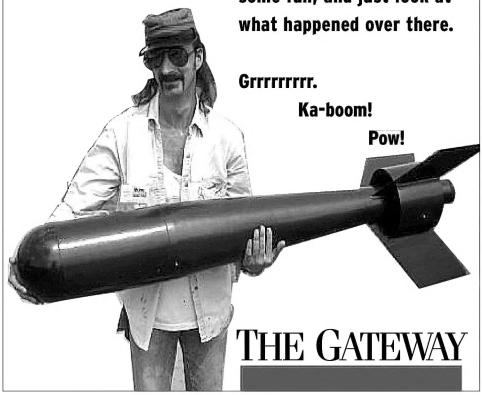
Look at that guy there. He's our EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, and he has a REALLY BIG MISSILE, which, for once, isn't sexual innuendo. Anyway, he'll use it, too, if you don't volunteer; Iraq didn't want to come have some fun, and just look at what happened over there.

Grrrrrrrrr.
Ka-boom!
Pow!



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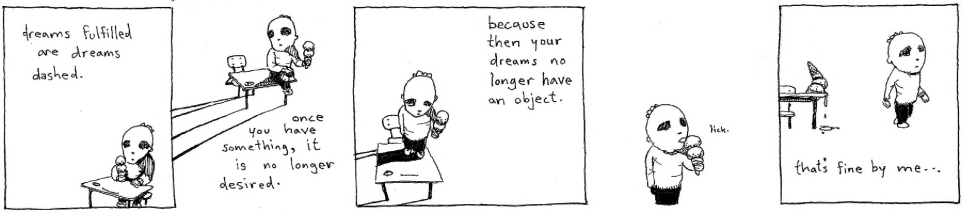

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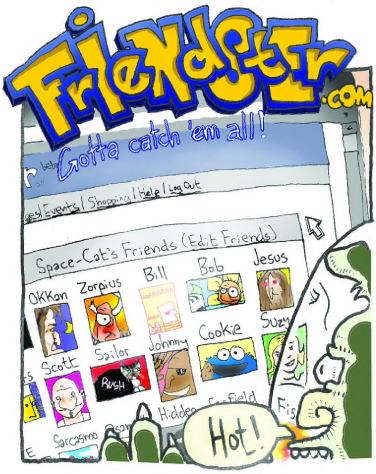

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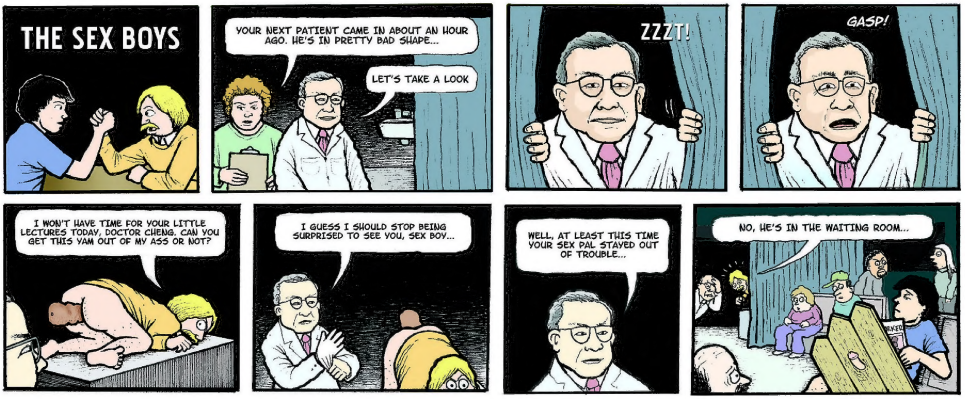

BLACKOUT by Chris Krause and Jen Koskela

REALLY BIG FEELINGS by Chris "Mike Winters" Boutet

ASTRONO WATCH

Keeping an eye on the sky...

Today's column, bizzoys and gizzurls, will be a dedication to that big fiery ball in the sky, our sun. Even though we are coming out of the peak of solar activity, an eleven-year cycle, sol has been acting up lately.

Last Sunday, it ejected a huge amount of gases and particles known as a Coronal Mass Ejection. This flare was an X-class flare, the largest kind. These can trigger radio blackouts and majorly screw up the guiding systems of orbiting satellites. Luckily, this particular CME was not pointed directly at Earth, but it still caused some notable northern lights. This particular flare was caused by the fast-growing sunspot 484.

Now, I'll bet you'd just LOVE to see that sunspot, but you're remembering how your Mom told you never to stare at the sun. Well let me tell you a little secret: buy some #14 welders glass, it **must** be #14, and you'll be able to look through it and see the sunspot. It'll look like a tiny dark blemish on the lower left quadrant of the sun. But I'm gonna hammer this point home again: **never stare unprotected at the surface of the sun**. Your eyes will be cooked in your head and they'll fall out. Seriously.

*No, silly. It's not astrology, it's astronomy. **AstronoWatch** is a weekly feature published every Tuesday (except when we don't publish on Tuesdays). Our resident astronomer, **Kati Kovacs**, sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory every Thursday evening at 8pm. Just take the elevator in the Physics Building up to the sixth floor, and then the stairs up to the seventh floor. Walk out onto the roof and*

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Campus events and more...

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The Gateway Student Journalism Society presents PWRCUP66. PWRCUP the regional conference for the prairie western region of the Canadian University Press. Over the Halloween weekend (31 October to 2 November). There will be seminars on all types of newspaper stuff, including news writing, sports writing, page layout and much, much more. For more information head to www.gateway.ualberta.ca/pwrcup.

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Will you people please stop asking me about the chairs? I'm doing my best, OK!

I can't decide whether to go to law school or not. What do you think?

The three best movies so far this year are *Lost in Translation*, *Kill Bill* and *Mystic River*. I've heard that *American Splendor* was also quite good, but when I went to go see it I found out it had already left town (after like a week and a half) so I went and saw *Underworld* and *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* instead, both of which totally sucked. In fact only two popcorn movies this summer have lived up to their potential being *The Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Rundown* (which should have kept its original title of *Hellodorado*). Hopefully *Matrix Revolutions* will be as good as those reviews on Aint-It-Cool-News make it out to be, but I think that they're probably studio plants. Sucky.

I ate the FLY! DAMN!!!!!!

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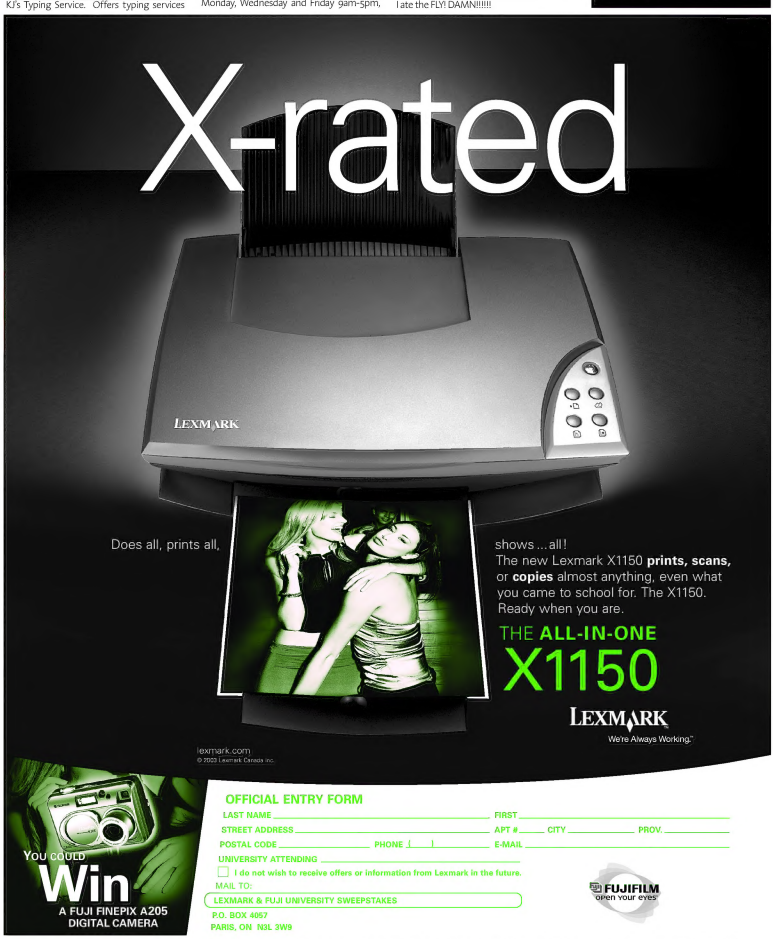

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